

Volume 3 ✂ Winter 2013 Issue

Friends of WCS



ADMINISTRATOR SMITH
HONORED

2013 MUD RUN

Where Are They Now?

-Ian O'Leary

**"DEFEAT CANCER"
FOOTBALL GAME**

Canned Food Drive

Random Acts
of Kindness

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that

will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that

has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke 2:1-19



May you and your family have a very, merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Friends Of WCS

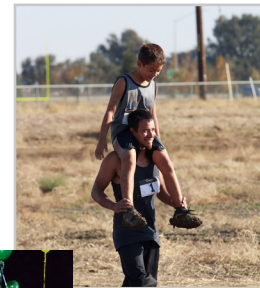
You
will seek
Me and find me
when you seek Me
with all your heart.
-Jeremiah 29:13

2013-2014 Theme:
ON THE CASE!

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Here we are in December, and we continue to have new students joining the ranks here at WCS. It is a privilege for me to be able to spend time with future students, tell them about all the wonderful things we have to offer at WCS, and have them shadow other students. Currently, 611 students are enrolled at the school. I am so grateful for our growing student body, and for our entire staff. Each staff member's hard work and continual sacrifice is giving us the opportunity to impact more students and their families for God's glory.

So much has happened since the last publication of Friends of WCS. Our seniors have completed their college applications, and some have already received acceptances. WCS fall sports teams had a great season, including playoff opportunities for the volleyball and football teams. We were able to serve our community with a canned food drive, reach children around the world with Operation Christmas Child, raise money for the American Cancer Society, and more! As you read through this newsletter, you will see that for a relatively small school, we are able to get quite a bit accomplished!

As I reflect on this Christmas season, I am reminded that God used a baby born in very humble circumstances to alter the entire course of human history. Jesus invested in a small group of men, his disciples, who then went out and changed the world. God can work through each of His followers to accomplish great things. At Woodland Christian School, we are committed to investing in each and every one of our students so they can leave WCS equipped and excited to bring positive change to their communities and to the world.



I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas. The message the angels gave to the shepherds the night Jesus was born is still as relevant today as it was over 2,000 years ago: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).

Justin Smith
Administrator

Friends of **WCS**

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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.

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WCS Administrator Justin Smith is Honored

WCS Administrator, Justin Smith, was honored at this year's "Future 7 Young Professionals Under 40" reception, held on November 7th at the Yolo Flier's Club. This is the second year the Woodland Chamber of Commerce has held this event, honoring young professionals in the community based on their outstanding business achievements and community-service involvement. Mr. Smith was selected from twenty nominees as part of the "Future Seven" who were recognized for their achievements this year. Those in attendance at the dinner that night included WCS Director of Development, David Hargadon, his wife and WCS bookkeeper, Suzi Hargadon, as well as long-time WCS supporter and grandmother, Dona Mast. Woodland Christian is proud of Mr. Smith and his accomplishments both here at Woodland Christian School and in our local community!



Clockwise from Top L: The 2013 Future 7 Award; Administrator Smith and his wife, Natalie; Administrator Smith and WCS Supporter Dona Mast; Administrator Smith and Director of Operations and Development, David Hargadon.



Want to keep up with what's happening at Woodland Christian?



Follow us on Twitter @k12wcs and Facebook!

2013 MUD RUN



The 3rd annual Woodland Mud Run, presented by Woodland Healthcare, was held in October. Over 400 people participated in this year's event, which included two crawl tubes, one giant metal ramp, an elevated telephone pole, a run through "car wash," hay jumps, and crawl-throughs. WCS raised \$13,000, which will be put toward a middle-school MacBook lab and two flat screens with apple TVs for the pre-school. Special thanks goes to Woodland Healthcare, PT Welding, Tan Orthodontics and our other sponsors.



The Fantasticks

The WCHS Players performed their fall drama, a musical titled “The Fantasticks,” for three nights in November. The story revolves around two neighboring mothers who trick their children, Luisa and Matt, into believing they are feuding in order to get them to fall in love. They hire actors who stage a mock abduction so that Matt can “save” Luisa and end the “feud.” The children discover the truth and separate for a time in order to experience the world. Disillusioned by their experiences, they return to each other and renew their love.

Cast members included **Cameron Morrow** as the actor “El Gallo,” **Laurie Winchenbaugh** as Luisa, **Justin West** as Matt, **Molly Simpson** as Luisa’s mother, **Vivian Knee** as Matt’s mother, **Riley Spencer** as an “extra actor,” **Jamie Remy** as the “extra” actor, Morticia, and **Bryan Sheffield** as “The Wall.” The audience was entertained not only by the music and the play, but seemed especially amused by the antics of Cameron Morrow and Riley Spencer.



The WCHS Players performing The Fantasticks!

2ND ANNUAL “DEFEAT CANCER” FOOTBALL GAME

On Friday, October 25th, the Woodland Christian Football program held its second annual “Defeat Cancer” football game to honor and help raise funds for those who have battled or are currently battling cancer. The Defeat Cancer game began last year with a goal to increase awareness about cancer and to raise needed funds to help the American Cancer Society. This event raised over \$1,000 last year, and thanks to the generosity of our fans this year, over \$2,000 was raised. All funds were sent directly to the American Cancer Society.

The school also sold special wrist bracelets with the theme “Choose Hope” and the initials of a special member of the WCS family, Mr. Kurt Arnold who fought stomach cancer with strength and dignity and went home to be with the Lord in August. Kurt was a member of the “chain gang” for each home football game and is greatly missed. As a part of the ceremony, a letter written by Teri Arnold, Kurt’s wife and WCS staff member, was read. Teri stood with her mother and three sons, one of whom is a senior and was playing in the football game that evening. Surrounding them were their WCS family and friends and at the conclusion of the ceremony, those in attendance released balloons. WCS wishes to thank all those who were in attendance that evening and helped to make it such a special night.



WCS

Third Grade



Remember the Liberty Mutual commercial a couple of years ago? It starts out with a woman pushing a stroller, not recognizing that her baby has dropped a stuffed baby doll. A man behind her stops, picks it up, and returns it to her. In the next scene, the same woman is getting a pastry in a shop, notices a coffee cup too close to the edge of a table, and gently nudges it towards its owner. A man oversees that kind act, and in the next scene helps another man who has just fallen in the rain. The commercial continues with one kind act being observed, then passed on from one person to another. In the end it's a commercial for Liberty Mutual, but for those who watched it, it was so much more. It was a reminder of what a huge difference a small act of kindness can do: for others, for us, and for those who observe.



This was the theme for WCS's third-grade classes for a week in November: Random Acts of Kindness. The third-grade teachers, Mrs. Geer and Mrs. Pascoe, had been teaching Psalm 100, which, if you or your child have ever attended kindergarten at WCS, is very familiar: "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations." The teachers emphasized not only being thankful, but also giving back because so much has been given to them. They encouraged their students to look beyond their own lives (noses) to make others feel good, that a tiny gesture like a note can brighten someone's day. Then came the challenge: Record yourself doing a random act of kindness for someone you do not know.



To get the students excited about the project, Mrs. Geer had a special treat. She had already recorded a random act of kindness with her daughter, Maddy. Together, they went to a local

and RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

Redbox machine and taped a package of popcorn with a dollar bill and a note which read, "This is for you! Have a special day! Enjoy your movie and popcorn on me!" She then told them about how the store clerk watched to see who would receive this kindness and reported back about the excitement and disbelief of a mother with two young children at receiving the free movie and popcorn. After watching and talking about Mrs. Geer's video, the students eagerly brainstormed ideas for their own random acts of kindness.

As the week progressed, the enthusiastic response of the third graders and their families was amazing! Photos and videos of students baking muffins and leaving them on a stranger's doorstep, writing a note of encouragement on a front porch with chalk, buying a Dutch Bros drink for the person behind them in line, and other random acts came pouring in. The energy was exciting and contagious. They didn't even have to stay to see the results! Just the idea of someone finding their random "gift" was more than enough of a reward.

What a lesson! Acts 20:35b says, "...remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" WCS third graders certainly had the opportunity to experience this firsthand. As a result of trying to brighten other people's day, the students were filled with the intangible blessings of giving.

As a Christian school, we can go even one step farther. Matthew 5:16 says, "In the same way, let your light shine before men, that *they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*" We can praise God! WCS praises Him for these third-grade teachers and students, who have been faithful to give to others in our community. We praise Him for the opportunity for other WCS students and families to follow their example.

As observers, especially this Christmas season, may we, too, be blessed as we give to those around us, and may we be encouraged to do our own random acts of kindness, bringing glory and honor to God!



Honoring our Military Members

WCS Elementary/Red Cross Packages for Soldiers
WCHS Veteran's Football Game



Chaplain Ryan Padgett with members of the Red Cross displaying a pillowcase decorated by a WCS student.

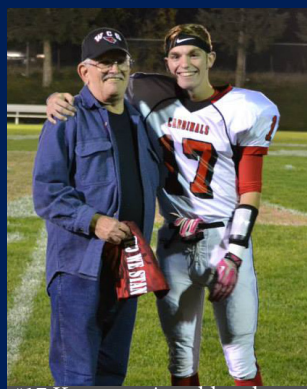
Woodland Christian Elementary School had the opportunity to assist the Red Cross in honoring our military by collecting items that will help and encourage men and women in uniform. The Red Cross provided a suggested list of items that families could donate to this cause, and the WCS families came through!

On October 22, the elementary students had special assemblies with Lorraine Alvarez-Opper, Judith Angulo, Margi Cruz, and Paige Cauffield from the Red Cross, as well as Chaplain Ryan Padgett, an active USAF officer and husband of WCS Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Padgett. Chaplain Padgett gave the students a glimpse into his life as a member of the military and shared pictures from some of his deployment around the world. Following the assemblies, the students in K-2 made cards and students in grades 3-5 decorated pillowcases for distribution to U.S. soldiers serving around the world.

Friday, November 8th, WCS held our first annual "Honor All Who Served" football game in recognition of Veteran's Day. It was a special night as WCS hosted Cristo Rey in the final game of the regular football season.

In an attempt to make the event even more poignant, each player adopted a veteran or currently enlisted military personnel to honor at the game. As each player was announced and walked onto the field, he was joined by his adopted veteran, whose name was announced, along with his or her rank and years of service. Each player and veteran took the opportunity to pose for a photo, and each veteran was given a commemorative t-shirt in honor of the occasion. Many fans were in attendance to support the WCS football team as they honored the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much to protect our freedom.

As another way of honoring our veterans, admission to the football game was free for all veterans or active duty military personnel and their families. All veterans also received free popcorn at the snack bar, and all gate money collected that evening was donated to the Wounded Warriors Project.



#17 Kameron Arnold and grandfather, Richard Gurney



#52 Anthony Modesto and Friend of WCS, Ryan Padgett



#7 Danny Kumata and father, Dennis Kumata



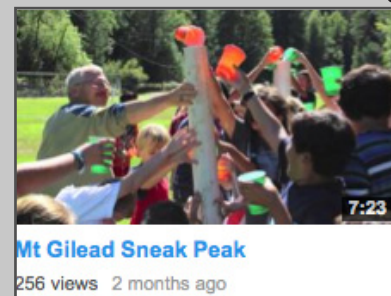
#75 Jamar Claiborne and father, Wayne Claiborne

Check us out on YouTube!

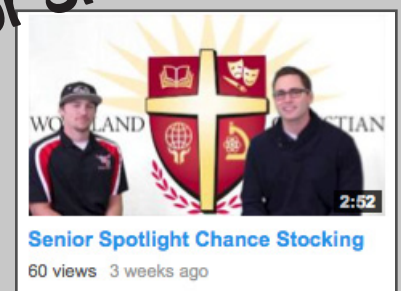
Goofy Skits!



Highlights



Senior Spotlights



and more!



WCMedia

WCS Player

Relation Rank

#1 Walker Perry	Grandfather	MM2 Dan Miller, US Navy
#3 Brendan Rodegerdts	KJ Barry's Uncle	Sgt. Mitchell Barry, US Army
#4 Justin Rodegerdts	Family Friend	LCpl. Robert Tedford, US Marines
#5 Chance Stocking	Family Friend	Sgt. Tony Arias, US Army
#7 Danny Kumata	Father	Lt. Cmdr. Dennis Kumata, US Navy
#17 Kameron Arnold	Grandfather	Spc.4 Richard Gurney, US Army
#21 Anthony Castaneda	Family Friend	Maj. Ted Coates, US Air Force
#22 KJ Barry	Grandfather	1st Sgt. David Barry, US Army
#25 Jacob Naschke	Family Friend	Lt. Ernesto Acebo, US Navy
#32 Grey Wofford	Grandfather	TSgt. Jack Mayberry, US Air Force
#33 Josh Truesdell	Grandfather	Capt. Stephen Truesdell, US Army
#44 Chase Canevari	Grandfather	PFC Donald Bierman, US Army
#45 Gerardo Castro	Uncle	MSgt. Dustin Warner, US Air Force
#51 Connor Brennan	Family Friend	TSgt. Vaughn Awa, US Air Force
#52 Anthony Modesto	Friend of WCS	TSgt. Ryan Padgett, US Air Force
#66 Dillon Carter	Family Friend	MSgt. Alfred Brum, US Air Force
#70 Zhihang Zhang	Josh Truesdell's Grandfather	Capt. Thomas Walther, US Air Force
#71 Jack Simpson	Grandfather	Capt. Victor Bucher, US Army
#75 Jamar Claibourn	Father	Spc. Wayne Claibourn, US Army
#80 Chance Kenealy	Mother	Spc. Shelly McConnell, US National Guard
#84 Dominick Tranfaglia	Father	SMSgt. Jason Tranfaglia, US Air Force



#80 Chance Kenealy and mother, Shelly McConnell



#66 Dillon Carter and family friend, Alfred Brum

WCS 2013 Canned Food Drive

Students and families at WCS came through once again for the 2013 WCS Canned Food Drive to make it a successful collection year. At the high school, students from each grade level competed to see who could bring in the most cans. The seniors won, bringing in 360 cans. At the middle school, each class competed and 6A (sixth grade) won, bringing in a total of 382 cans. In total, the Matmor campus alone brought in 2,064 cans. The elementary campus collected cans as well, bringing the total to over 4,000 food items.

Like last year, this year all cans were donated to Homeward Bound Outreach. Homeward Bound is a non-profit agency founded by Pastor Roy Postell. Volunteers go into local areas frequented by those without homes, handing out food and spreading the good news of Christ. In addition, every Saturday Homeward Bound hosts a meal in Freeman Park, where Pastor Roy gives a message and Homeward Bound members hand out food and hygiene products. WCS is proud to partner with Homeward Bound once again to help provide food and spread the gospel to the homeless in Yolo



THE POWER of a SIMPLE GIFT

Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse

At right: WCS student Madeline Akina brings her shoeboxes in for Operation Christmas Child.

A favorite giving opportunity for students and families each year is the Operation Christmas Child gift drive. Each year, Woodland Christian students and families pack boxes full of small toys, socks, toothbrushes, Bibles, and school supplies. Each box is designated for a boy or a girl and decorated with colorful wrapping paper.

Just as with the canned food drive, WCHS and WCMS held competitions to see which class could bring in the most boxes. This time the sophomore class won, bringing in 22 boxes. At the middle school, 7A (seventh) came in first with 25 boxes. A

total of 231 boxes were collected this year.

Woodland Christian High School students helped deliver the boxes to the collection center, located at Calvary Baptist Church in Woodland. After all the boxes from the local area are collected, they will be picked up and shipped to various locations around the world.

Woodland Christian is blessed to be able to help children around the world have a special Christmas.

Ian O'Leary

WCS Alum, Class of 2005

Normally this section is reserved to connect with former staff, but the editors decided to shake things up a bit and catch up with WCS alum, Ian O'Leary instead.

When did you graduate from WCS and what did you do after graduation?

I graduated from WCHS in 2005 in a class of 49 students. I had committed to Saint Mary's College (SMC) prior to my senior year of high school and attended there, earning a degree in kinesiology with an emphasis on sports marketing in 2009. After graduating, I had agents reach out to me about playing basketball professionally. I signed a contract in Spain in September after being shopped around Europe for the summer. Since then, I have had many offers in other countries, but really enjoy living in Spain.

What is it like to be able to play professional basketball in Spain?

Playing in Spain has been an incredible experience on and off of the court. The game is huge here, and people are very passionate about the sport. I have had an opportunity to play many places and with teammates from all around the world. I have been able to pick up the language and have many crazy experiences here. We have been in five cities and teams in my five years since graduation. We are starting year five now in Gran Canaria, one of the Canary Islands. It's an incredible place to live, a huge vacation place to all the world. We are in the first year of a two-year contract, with options to extend the contract after 2015. Our team is currently tied for 1st place and is undefeated.

Tell us about your family.



Ian O'Leary

I started dating Jennifer Rodd our sophomore year at SMC. We dated through college, married August 1st, 2009 and moved to Spain in September of 2009. Jennifer has been with me throughout everything. We have one son, Carson Michael O'Leary, born on March 5th, 2012. He was born in Palencia, Spain, our third team/city. He is 20 months old now and dominating



Ian, Jennifer and Carson O'Leary

life here in Spain. We are hoping he will be able to obtain Spanish citizenship as well. We also hope to have more kids soon.

What are some of your favorite memories of WCS?

I have a lot of fond memories from WCHS. I enjoyed the field trips, sports, and chapels. I really loved Spirit Week.

It is a lot of fun competing with your classes and dressing up crazy in the process.

What advice do you have for our current student body, especially those that are playing basketball with aspirations of playing in the big leagues?

The advice I would give to WCHS students is to enjoy the moments while you're there. It is a unique place where people truly care about you, and God is in all places. It is a very cool thing to be able to have prayer in classes and to be mentored by teachers and principals who love the Lord as well as all the students.

As far as sports go, it is not easy. You have to be willing to sacrifice a lot of time, sweat, and pain to play at the highest levels. To make the jump from the high-school level to the college level is increasingly difficult and competitive. To play pro is a completely other level. Believe in yourself and stay focused on the things that are important.

As you look back now, what are your feelings about going to WCS?

Nothing but positives going to WCHS. It is a small place, so at times maybe I wished for some other things or bigger places. However, looking back it gave me a great upbringing and kept God in my life daily through crucial maturing years. It's a whole new world after you leave home and go to college. Gotta have that strong foundation or you will get lost.

MARRIAGE



Ty and Erin Flora
Wedding

Ty and **Erin (Smith, '04) Flora** were married on October 26th, 2013 at the Smith family home in Yolo, CA. Bridesmaids included WCS alumna **Stephanie (Hollowell, '03) Jaime**, and the Maid of Honor was sister of the bride and WCS Alumna **Marcie (Smith, '07) Bratton**. After honeymooning in Kauai, the Floras returned to Santa Rosa, CA, where Erin is a registered nurse at Sutter Medical Center of Santa Rosa and Ty is the recreation supervisor at Mt. Gilead Bible Camp.

BIRTHS



Patrick James Amunrud

Jeremiah and **Allison (Drake, '02) Lewis** welcomed the blessing of their first child, Jonah Ayden Lewis on May 4th, 2013. At the time of his birth, Jonah weighed 7lbs 14oz and was 20 inches long. Proud family members include his Aunt **Amanda (Drake, '03) Houston** and Uncle **Adam Drake ('05)**. Jeremiah, Allison, and little Jonah live in Woodland, where Jeremiah is an instructor with Sacramento State for their Paramedic, EMT (emergency medical technician) & BLS (basic life support) classes and Allison is an Administrative Assistant with Larry Walker Associates in Davis.



Lucy Faith Bratton

Coy and **Marcie (Smith, '07) Bratton** are overjoyed to announce the birth of their first child, Lucy Faith Bratton. Lucy was born August 26, 2013. At birth she was 8.7 pounds and 20 inches long. The Brattons first met while in college at Corban College in Oregon and were married in May of 2011. Coy, Marcie and Lucy now live in Woodland, where Coy and Marcie both work at Target.

GET CONNECTED!

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.

EMAIL

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.

4 Classroom
Makeovers

30 New Apple
Mac Laptops
for a Mobile
Computer Lab

1 New building
for the high
school boys'
locker room

611 Students
enrolled,
PK-12th

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