

SPRING 2016

# ANCHORAGE

*The Magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School*



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS **BUILDING**  
**COMMUNITY** *through Athletics*

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*NEW Alumna of the Year Award*



ANNAPOLIS AREA  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## A MESSAGE FROM MR. K

by Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*

Dear Eagles Community:

In our last edition of Anchorage, I concluded my column by encouraging us all to pursue and practice a 1 Thessalonians 4:18 kind of life... "Give Thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

There are certainly times when giving thanks in all circumstances is a challenge. However, reading the verse again, I'm reminded that we're invited to be thankful "in" every circumstance, not necessarily "for" every circumstance. "For this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" are the closing words. Where else would I rather be than "in" a circumstance that is being shared with me by my loving and sovereign God? Our joy is rooted in Christ, not in a circumstance.

*God is "in" every circumstance  
whether we see it or not...  
His perfect and sovereign  
intervention is ever at play.*

Barbara and I are approaching the close of our fourth school year at AACCS. We're about to bid farewell to the seniors who were freshmen when we arrived. Since arriving, we've faced many circumstances for which we were thankful. Some were filled with celebration, while others were filled with uncertainty and challenge. We were reminded time and again that we have the invitation of responding to those circumstances, knowing that they were His will for us in Christ Jesus.

Looking back over the past four years it becomes even more clear how God's hand has been "in" every circumstance. For example, in the midst of challenges and uncertainty, including a tough economy and declining enrollment, our faculty and staff persevered. Their love for Jesus Christ and for the work they do continued to create a loving and positive school experience.



A second circumstance for which we're thankful is that the "talk around town" has become more and more positive. You may have noticed the increase in newspaper articles featuring all of the great things that are happening here. We're receiving an increase in inquiries and applications, and retention is at an all-time high. What we offer at AACCS is different and the word is spreading.

We're also thankful today for recent enrollment growth. In school year 2015-2016, enrollment increased by about 10%, our first increase in many years. We are projecting another 10% increase for the 2016-17 school year. Within days our high school will have waiting lists in all grades. In addition, we have added a fourth section of 8th grade, and are close to having waiting lists in several other grades. Even our newest Lower School campus, only going into its second year, is filling up fast. This has catapulted us to a place that could only be explained as a blessing...God's hand "in" our circumstances.

Here's the deal. We are experiencing a time of visible blessing and we give thanks for that...big time. However, it would be a huge mistake to believe that God was not also blessing us during our challenging times. Because of Jesus, we can be joyful in hope, always, even in difficult situations. The Truth is that God is "in" every circumstance whether we see it or not. God calls us to live like we are thankful, no matter what circumstances come our way...He has the circumstances. He is at work. His perfect and sovereign intervention is ever at play.

Thank you for your support and please continue to pray for the ministry of Annapolis Area Christian School. ✚

*In His Service and Yours,  
Rick Kempton, Superintendent*

**ANCHORAGE** is the magazine of Annapolis Area Christian School. The magazine is distributed to school parents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of Annapolis Area Christian School. A downloadable version is also available online at [aacsonline.org](http://aacsonline.org).

### MISSION STATEMENT

We engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

### STAFF

- Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*
- Bob McCollum, *Principal, Upper School*
- Rick Slenk, *Principal, Middle School*
- Nancy Pavlischek, *Principal, Lower School, Annapolis*
- Karl Graustein, *Principal, Lower School, Severn*
- Glen Cole, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Graham Thorpe, *Chief Advancement Officer*
- Jennifer Good, *Chief Communications Officer*

**ALUMNI** should direct news information to [akastendike@aacsonline.org](mailto:akastendike@aacsonline.org) or contact the Alumni Relations office at 410.519.5300 x2116.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To email a member of the board, please use the format first initial and last name @aacsonline.org unless otherwise noted below.

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- Dan Smith – [dansmith@aacsonline.org](mailto:dansmith@aacsonline.org)
- Mark Solsman
- Donna Tull

### ABOUT THE COVER

*2016 Middle School Girls Lacrosse Team celebrates a Big Win!*

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# Anchors Aweigh

Thanks to the effort and support of our generous community it was smooth sailing at the 2016 AACs Spring Spectacular community-building event. AACs is blessed to have a strong and engaged community culture and God is at work in kid's lives throughout our region. The Spring Spectacular is about bringing everyone together as friends, families, teachers and staff enjoying an evening of fellowship, sharing stories and raising support for kids through the Anchor Fund.

On April 23rd we set sail in the Kilby Athletic Center at the Upper School Campus. It was a sold out event, filled

with fun, food and excitement. Based on the gifts from our school community, the event raised **\$100,000** for the Anchor Fund! It was delightful and encouraging to hear about lives changed through stories that were shared. God is working in so many ways at AACs. The auditioned choirs performed beautifully and the Upper School Jazz Band was nothing short of sensational in their performance. We are so thankful to be

able to be linked arm-in-arm with all who attended and could not have done it without the help of our hard working volunteer committee, planning and organizing every detail. Thank you to everyone who came and gave in support of what God is doing at AACs. Next year we hope to see even more families join us at the Spring Spectacular Dinner & Auction. To God be the glory!! ⚓

*The Spring Spectacular is about bringing everyone together, enjoying an evening of fellowship, sharing stories and raising support for the kids.*



## The Anchor Fund



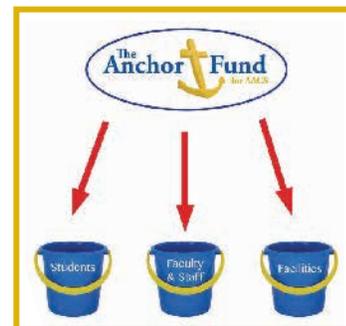
for AACs

### ADVANCEMENT PERSPECTIVE AT AACs

We believe that generous giving and wise stewardship are the natural outgrowth of a life devoted to God and Christ, and that it is through God's transformation of a person's heart to reflect the image of Christ that they become generous, as Christ is generous. The focus in raising money, then, should be upon assisting Christians to honor and obey God, not on the needs of the organization. As all of life increasingly comes under the lordship of Jesus Christ, sanctification and stewardship go hand in hand.

To make a gift to the Anchor Fund, visit [aacsonline.org](http://aacsonline.org) and click on the Anchor Fund button on the home page, or use the envelope provided in the center of this magazine. ⚓

AACs is a proud participant in the Chesapeake Bay Area Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The five digit code to designate AACs is 22852. For more info, visit [www.cbacfc.org](http://www.cbacfc.org).





• Lower School :: Annapolis •

## ENGAGED STUDENTS AND STEM AT AACCS

by Jennifer Good & Bonnie Howe

“Good morning students. Please break into your teams. Today each team will apply their knowledge and skills related to energy transfer in collisions to develop a vehicle restraint system.”

This sounds like an assignment for a college engineering class. Yet it’s actually the assignment given to a group of our 4th and 5th grade students at the Lower School campus in Annapolis. Soon they’ll also be asked to design a system that is able to store energy and then convert that energy to a usable form. This is all part of a new STEM education curriculum we have launched called Project Lead The Way (PLTW).

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is a nonprofit organization and the nation’s leading provider of K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. Their curriculum is now in over 8,000 schools across the U.S. The innovative hands-on lessons introduce young minds to the wonders of STEM. Students build critical thinking skills while identifying real world problems and unique solutions.

The 24 modules provided in this new curriculum include units in physics, computer systems and programming, human anatomy & physiology, energy, engineering, robotics, environmental/animal science, genetics, earth science, forensics, and digital media.

“Students are excited to take an active part of the learning process. They enjoy collaborating and solving real-world problems” stated Bonnie Howe, Lower School Science Teacher. “PLTW has given students the opportunity to be inventive and develop critical thinking skills. My role as a teacher is more of a facilitator that encourages innovative and creative thinking in my students.”

The collision restraint system that students will design is part of a module on energy. Students begin the module by investigating how mechanisms change energy by transferring direction, speed, type of movement, and force. They discover a variety of ways potential energy can be stored and released as kinetic energy. Citing evidence, students explain the relationship between the speed of an object and the energy of that object. They also predict the transfer of energy as a result of a collision between two objects. Students use iPads and VEX building kits to build a pendulum and vehicle to apply their knowledge and

skills related to energy transfer in collisions. In the end they work in teams to develop their own design for a vehicle restraint system.

One of the educational goals at AACCS is to develop active learners who solve complex issues with careful thought, innovation, and creativity. Project Lead The Way is one of many opportunities for our students to do just that. 2015-2016 has been a pilot year for PLTW in 3rd-5th grade at the Annapolis Lower School campus and the plan is to expand it to all Lower School grades in both Lower School campuses next school year. In addition, Madelyn Smith, the Upper School technology and engineering teacher, visited the Lower School in Severn this January for a full STEM education day.

“PLTW is a fun way to learn science together” says Jady in 5th grade.

Isaac, in 4th grade, says “PLTW, on a scale of 1-10, is a 1,000,000!”

Fifth grader Rebekka says “PLTW establishes teamwork in a fun way.”

Students are clearly enjoying and learning - a fantastic combination! †



• Lower School :: Severn •

## SEVERN LOWER SCHOOL’S FIRST 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS!

by Nikki Gilmore, *Fifth Grade Teacher*

When school began in August, 2015, a group of eight students from various backgrounds and different schools came together to create the first 5th grade class at the AACCS Severn Lower School campus. The class of four boys and four girls was excited and nervous about their new school and the experiences and opportunities it would afford

them. As the days became weeks, these students became a class of close friends who learned and laughed together, and in January, they welcomed and embraced a ninth member into their 5th grade family.

The students were challenged academically, as well as spiritually, as they explored the life and ministry of Jesus, experimented with “hands-on” science topics, learned to use computer software, multiply fractions, and went back in time to the Civil War. They took field trips and participated in music productions together, all the while encouraging each other to try hard and do their best. Each student even took on the challenge of participating in the band program and learned to play an instrument.

Throughout the year they learned to be better friends, students, and leaders within the school as they were given the opportunity to live out their class verse, Matthew 22:37-39, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and love your neighbor as yourself.” The class shortened this verse to simply “love God and love others,” and they looked for ways to live it at school and at home.

The students discovered that they really enjoyed serving others in various ways in the school. Each week they had the opportunity to be an example and serve by setting up the lunchroom after chapel. One of their favorite service opportunities was visiting the 1st and 2nd grade classroom each Friday to spend time reading with the younger students. In addition to these experiences, they had the opportunity to help lead worship in chapel on Wednesdays.

As the year comes to an end, we asked the 5th grade class what they thought about their time at the AACs Severn Lower School, and this is what they had to say about their experiences and what they learned.

MJ Kim – This year I learned to make PowerPoint presentations and how to speak Spanish.

Parrish Fleming – In Bible class I learned that God is the one Holy God

that we should praise and pray to. I also learned that even when you don’t have many friends, God is always with you.

Ka-Lyn Jordan – My favorite subject is Science. It’s always “hands-on.”

Nia Williams – The best thing about 5th grade is our motto, “Love God, love others.” When Mrs. Gilmore told us that, I was inspired!

Faith Martin – The best thing about 5th grade is the reading program. We have to read three nights a week as homework and if you read more nights you can get ice cream, sprinkles and toppings!

Lucas Popiel – My favorite subject is Math. We learned to multiply fractions and it was awesome!

Evan Harrison – My classmates are great, and they are really funny. It’s really cool that there are only nine of us.

Gabrielle Gill – My classmates are amazing because they welcomed me in when I came in the middle of the year.

Leah Hendrix – The best thing about 5th grade is being a leader for the younger kids and that AACs is like my second family. I also like that in Bible Mrs. Gilmore always takes time to answer my questions. †

• Middle School :: Annapolis •

## SERVING AT THE LIGHTHOUSE SHELTER

by Flynn McCann, 7th Grader, & Brian Miller

What would it be like to not have enough money to have a home or food? I thought deeply on this question the day before I went to the Lighthouse Shelter. This is the Middle School’s second year of going to the shelter on West Street, just minutes from the campus. The program started three years ago when my teacher, Mr. Miller, visited the Lighthouse in hopes of giving an opportunity for his students to serve others outside the walls of the school. While there he said he was surprised to find that another school further away from the Lighthouse than AACs was already heavily involved in serving there. Seeing this helped fuel his desire to take action. “Our school



*“Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.” - Mother Theresa*

follows the greatest servant of all time and should be leading the charge in caring for the poor,” he said. Since then, each year the 7th grade serves six breakfasts and six lunches at the shelter in efforts to imitate Jesus through serving the least of these.

My group went to serve breakfast in April of this year. We got there early

in the morning before school to start cooking. I worked on making the bacon while my classmates prepared eggs, hash browns, and waffles. After we had finished making the food, we served the 30-40 people that had gathered in the cafeteria. They thanked us for the food, which might not seem like a big deal, but the genuineness of their gratitude was very evident. Serving and interacting with these people helped us see homelessness in a different light. These were normal people who for some reason or another had fallen on hard times. As Mother Teresa says, "each one of them is Jesus in disguise." By serving them we can serve the King of Kings, who came to serve because he loved us, not for his own personal gain.



• Upper School :: Severn •

## AN INTERNATIONAL FLAIR WITH ETERNAL IMPLICATIONS

by The Eiring Family & Jennifer Good

What does it take to host an international student at AACCS? According to

Bob and Phyllis Eiring it takes humor, flexibility, and the belief that missionary work can begin in the home.

A few years back the Eiring's "adopted" two Chinese students who were enrolling into the Upper School international program. The Eiring's have a son at AACCS. They saw a note in the Friday newsletter about the need for homestay families. After prayer and discussion, they decided to take a leap of faith. Three boys sharing one-and-a-half bathrooms has been a challenge, but Bob Eiring says that the blessings have far outweighed the obstacles.

Mr. Eiring is very clear about what has happened since James and Jerry arrived. "Our family has become closer to Jesus Christ during this time." The family has grown to five. Bob and Phyllis have had the joy of driving Jerry to the college of his choice, meeting Chinese family members, experiencing new foods and cultural stories, and even sharing the Gospel on a daily basis in their own home.

When asked about what he would tell a prospective homestay family, Bob said "becoming a missionary in our own home and learning from each other has been a wonderful experience." Through activities at Bay Area Community Church, sports, and school events, the Eiring family has had many laughs and shared time together, which has drawn both Jerry and James into a loving relationship despite the initial language barriers. Bob says that even Phyllis,

"who is pretty shy, went in front of the entire church to be baptized again due to her renewed faith" which was energized by the opportunity to minister to two international students.

Amidst James being extremely frightened of birds, to the point where he would cover even if riding in the car, and Jerry having to adjust to pets in the home, the Eiring's would choose to make the same decision over and over again. Bob and Phyllis agree that the program at AACCS is a very good thing. "We think it is extremely important that our children look past the color of skin and base a relationship upon the character of a person."

When asked about the international program, Superintendent Rick Kempton said "impacting the world for Jesus Christ is part of our mission. It's what we do." The AACCS International Program is part of our effort to impact the world for Jesus Christ, spreading His word to every tribe, every tongue, and every nation.

"Our vision is that our international students come to faith in Jesus Christ, and return back to their home country to spread the Gospel" says Kempton. These students go home with a greater understanding and impression of Christianity which is also a success for the program. Our own students also benefit from the added culture diversity.

If you're interested in learning about becoming a host family for one of our international students, please email Jennifer at [jgood@aacsonline.org](mailto:jgood@aacsonline.org).



# 13TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

**COME PLAY GOLF....** Online Registration Now Open!

Proceeds to benefit AACCS Athletics.  
Now offering special alumni discount!  
Sponsorships and Volunteer opportunities available.

Register to play online at [www.aacsonline.org](http://www.aacsonline.org).

Contact 410.519.5300 x2116 or  
[akastendike@aacsonline.org](mailto:akastendike@aacsonline.org) for more information.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016  
QUEENSTOWN  
HARBOR GOLF CLUB  
RIVER COURSE

...

## WE BELIEVE

that God created children  
in his own image,  
each with their own  
diverse gifts and talents.



We work to help students  
develop their full potential  
in mind, body, and spirit.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### NEW THIS YEAR!

The AACS Alumni Association is excited to present the beginning of what will become a new Annapolis Area Christian School tradition – the AACS Alumnus of the Year Award. This award will be given to an alumnus who exemplifies the AACS tradition of excellence and is bringing or has brought glory to the Lord through their personal accomplishments, professional achievements, leadership in their community, or exemplary service to others.

Nominations will be accepted from alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the school through the end of August each

year. The Alumni Association Awards Committee will be made up of alumni, faculty, and staff, and will determine the recipient during the month of September. The recipient will be recognized and honored at a banquet during Homecoming Weekend in October.

A list of criteria and the nomination process will be posted on the AACS website by the end of June 2016. To join the Alumni Association Awards Committee, contact Ashlee Kastendike in the Alumni Relations Office at [akastendike@aacsonline.org](mailto:akastendike@aacsonline.org). †

### ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Graham Thorpe, '97 & Caleb Wolf, '99  
Chief Advancement Officer | Alumni Association President



## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR AWARD



*Given to an alumnus  
who exemplifies  
the mission of AACS.*

## SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING 2016

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>**

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

@ Kilby Athletic Center at the AACS Upper School

7:00pm | Tickets \$25/person

Email [akastendike@aacsonline.org](mailto:akastendike@aacsonline.org) for more information.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>**

Girls Varsity Field Hockey v. Elizabeth Seton | 3:00 PM

Girls Varsity Soccer v. Gerstell | 3:45 PM

Girls JV Volleyball v. Pallotti | 4:00 PM

Girls Varsity Volleyball v. Pallotti | 5:15 PM

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Alumni Games & Fall Festival

Alumni Flag Football | 11:00 AM

Boys Varsity Soccer v. St. Peter and Paul | 11:00 AM

Boys Varsity Football v. Mt. Carmel | 1:00 PM

*Be on the lookout for...*

## WINTER EVENTS 2016 .....

DECEMBER  
ALUMNI CHRISTMAS  
RECEPTION



JANUARY  
YOUNG ALUMNI CHAPEL  
AND LUNCHEON

AACS proudly presents...

# the Class of 2016



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!  
*Welcome to the alumni association!*





...

As a diverse community  
of Christians,

**OUR PURPOSE**  
is to further biblical  
understanding of life  
through Christian education,  
in partnership with  
families and the church.

• Our Mission •

...

WE ENGAGE STUDENTS IN  
an education  
of excellence

enabling them to **IMPACT THE WORLD**  
through a growing relationship **WITH JESUS CHRIST.**

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Annapolis, MD 21401

**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
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Annapolis, MD 21401

**UPPER SCHOOL**  
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Severn, MD 21144



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We approach learning through the biblical perspective (creation, fall, redemption, and final restoration),  
*striving to connect what we believe to what we do.*

