

## **Weekly Eagle News – Head of Schools**

My Favorite Parents:

Another great week at Redlands Christian Schools!

1. While our girls' varsity volleyball team lost in the quarterfinals of the CIF-SS playoffs, I am very proud of how they did. After a CIF championship last fall, we were moved up from division 6 to division 4 (out of nine). Our team responded by continuing to improve throughout the year. One challenge of moving up divisions is that you play so many larger schools in the playoffs. In our last two rounds, we faced schools with more than 2,000 students in their high school (versus 435 at ACA).
2. We received our financial audit for the 2022-23 fiscal year this past week. Each year we conduct a full audit of our finances. This is a "best practice" to ensure that we are being good stewards of limited resources and that we are operating by both sound and ethical business practices. Here are some highlights:
  - We finished the year with positive net income, meaning we finished in the black.
  - Our audit firm works with many independent schools and provides analysis that compares us to the other Christian and religious schools with whom they work. Our performance was called an "anomaly" among peer schools in that our financial position continued to improve, particularly as measured by the portion of our expenses covered by tuition and fees (without donation income). This was fairly unique among peer schools due, in part, to the struggles resulting from inflation.
  - 86% of our expenses were for program costs while our peer comparison schools were about 80%. This means more of our tuition dollars go directly to the education of students versus administrative or overhead costs.
  - While peer schools' administration pay represented 7% of their expenses, the number is only 1% at RCS.
  - It was a clean audit with no significant management issues and no material issues.
  - On a separate note, I have had the opportunity to attend two sessions with other Christian school leaders on operating wisely during years of plenty to prepare for years of need. I was pleased that suggested strategy after strategy were already being done here at Redlands Christian. I am grateful for the leadership of David Best, our CBO, and our business office team: Verna Gomez, Sarah Lopez and Susanne DeJong.
3. During the summer we touted an emerging partnership with California Baptist University's MSW program to support the social and emotional health of students. That partnership has not been realized in the manner intended and, while we will continue to work towards that as we move forward, we are pivoting to other strategies. While those strategies come into play, we do want to remind you as parents that we have continued our previous approach. We make referrals to three excellent Christian counseling agencies in our area. In many cases, we pay for the first sessions of counseling, if we are the ones making the referral. Regardless of this, if you believe your student is struggling with social and emotional health issues, please do not hesitate to work with your division principal to get more information on opportunities for support.

**Upcoming Dates:**

Fall Parent Society Meeting – Monday, October 30, 2023 – 7 pm LS Gymnasium. This will include an Ice Cream Sundae bar. We are recording our principal presentations and my State of the School address and will make the video available by the end of the week.

Enjoy your week!

Brian