

From the Administrator's Desk

A colleague gave me the picture of the gigantic Angel Oak tree, its massive, ancient roots exposed. The quote read, "This was once just a seed, what are you planting?" This photograph humbled me as I consider the awesome work that happens at Johnstown Christian School. With over 200 young seeds in our walls every day, what lessons and truths are being planted daily?

The school's theme this year is "Rooted and Growing in Christ: Engaging Minds, Building Character, Deepening Faith." Our desire is to see students grow in all three areas while attending JCS. The JCS community looks at this as a privilege to provide "Christian families with a Christ-centered education which prepares their children spiritually, academically, and socially to live for the glory of God. Students will be prepared spiritually in their commitment to Christ and their development of a Christian world and life view, academically with a quality curriculum, and socially through the development of Godly character traits" as it says in our mission statement.

To carry out our theme, we must engage students' minds. This means rigorous academics taught in relevant ways. Our teaching staff seeks to incorporate the best teaching pedagogy to produce an excellent educational program. This is seen in the lives of our graduates who continue onto high education. To quote a 2013 graduate, "I was more than prepared for university and my future work place. My elementary, middle school, and high school teachers held me to a level of excellence in all areas that put me ahead of my peers in university. I was prepared for the higher level thinking, especially in writing and problem solving, that is necessary for anyone going on to higher education. In addition, I was equipped with the essential skills for the work place, a desire to do work well, the self-discipline to keep a schedule, and interpersonal skills." That is an engaged mind!

Secondly, we must build character. This is accomplished in many different avenues. We heard some of these avenues at our annual Fall Banquet from Josh and Sarah Varner, JCS alumni. Josh spoke passionately about how true godly character is developed in conjunction with our athletic program. While a soccer coach at JCS, he worked to develop much more than soccer skills alone. He mentored and guided young athletes to see how their character is reflected on the soccer field. It encourages me to consider the many times in a student's school career that we can help to develop this character.

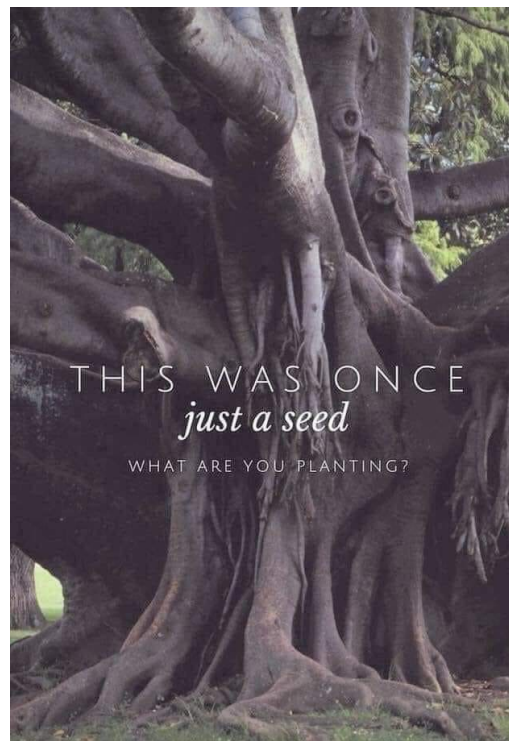
The last phrase of our theme, "deepening faith," points us to some of the defining distinctives about JCS and Christian education. It is an awesome responsibility to teach students math, reading, science, and history. However, we at JCS have the added responsibility of helping students to strengthen their spiritual roots. Jeremiah 17:7-8 states, "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It

has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." JCS's mission would not be complete if we did not guide students in the planting of roots. My humble prayer is that as JCS embarks on many more years of educating young people, we would be in the business of engaging minds, building character, and deepening faith.



Celeste Sprankle

Celeste Sprankle, M.Ed.
Administrator



Events



Fall Banquet 2018

It is inspiring to celebrate the work that God is doing at Johnstown Christian School!

This year's theme is from Jeremiah 17:7-8: *"But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."* It states our desire for our students.

At this year's banquet we were able to hear how God has used JCS in the lives of students and families. All were encouraged by second graders singing about being a tree whose roots grow deep and listening to Aubrey Cook's (2018 Homecoming Queen) testimony about how our school is helping deepen her roots. The speakers represented a vast number of roles in the life of our school family: current and past parents, a teacher, coaches, alumni, and a former board member. It was encouraging to hear how God has worked in the lives of these individuals through the ministry of JCS. As we look towards the future, we greatly anticipate how God will use JCS in the lives of current students and families. These individuals spoke on the lasting impact of the work that happens here in partnership with families and churches. Our ministry engages minds, builds true godly character, and deepens faith, so that students will be rooted and growing in Christ.



Homecoming 2018

On Saturday, October 6, 2018, Johnstown Christian School held its fifth Homecoming celebration. The JCS Homecoming Court was comprised of nine class representatives (underclassmen) and five seniors. Aubrey Cook was chosen as the 2018 Johnstown Christian School Homecoming Queen.

Back Row (Standing): Daniel Hostetter, Reilly McKay, Iliana Hunsberger, Megan Hodges, Isabel Calasara, Lorna Speigle, Adrianna Thomas, Kayla Yoder, Aubrey Cook, Drew Taylor, Ethan McDowell

Front Row (Seated/Kneeling): Alexi McDowell, Justin Eckenrod, Sarah Huston



#GivingTuesday

Thanks to your generous donations, \$3,600 was raised on #GivingTuesday for the JCS Student Scholarship Fund.

Middle School Leadership Conference



On Monday, October 22, eight middle school students attended the ACSI (Association of Christian Schools International) Middle School Leadership Conference in Butler, Pennsylvania. At the conference,

students learned about the symptoms of being “alone” and its effect on their community. They met in small groups with students from other schools and discussed issues like bullying, peer pressure, anxiety, depression, and more. The conference leaders walked students through the process of discovering their leadership styles and allowed students to understand how they can work with other students of different leadership styles. In small groups, each student worked to identify and use his or her leadership style to work with others in overcoming student-identified issues.

During the conference, JCS middle school students felt anxiety was a major issue facing students their age. They decided they wanted to organize student-facilitated study groups in order to build students’ confidence and ease anxiety related to studying.

Front Row: Simeon Parker, Allison Burkey, NeVaeh Thompson, Austin Fleegle

Back Row: Samantha Eash, Jeremiah Taylor, Unity Miller, Abraham Kabler

Gettysburg, PA



The ninth and tenth graders were able to tour the battlefield of one of the most memorable battles ever on American soil. They visited the museum followed by the cyclorama. Students were engaged and eager to learn about the rich history of our wonderful state. The highlight of the trip was the tour with an incredible guide. His knowledge was expansive, several times including direct passages from various diaries and personal letters. Much fun was had, and students learned a lot!

Telling the next generation about the Lord

re:Act

On November 18, twelve students in tenth through twelfth grades and two faculty members headed to Washington, D.C. to attend the ACSI HS leadership conference, re:Act. Many serious topics were discussed this year including poverty, abortion, assisted dying, refugees, and human trafficking. Students were engaged and their eyes were opened to problems that this generation is facing. They are all excited to see how the Lord will work in them and how they will “re:Act” to the conference in order to make an impact on those around them and people who are affected by all of these issues.



Daelynn McGeary, Adrianna Thomas, Daniel Hostetter, Lorna Speigle, Lillie Sprankle, Casey Miller, Alexi McDowell, Eliah Parker, Reilly McKay, Lucas Haynes, Iliana Hunsberger, Aubrey Cook

Washington, D.C.

Our juniors and seniors were again able to go to Washington, D.C., and the trip continues to provide an amazing example of how important history truly is. The trip started with a visit to the USDA Farmer's Market where students were treated to live music, samples of goodness, and a unique experience of both farmer's markets and big city living. They finished by walking down to the Washington Monument. They then toured the Sackler and Freer Galleries of Asian Art and experienced art that was different from what most students have ever seen before. Finally, the tour ended with a trip to the Holocaust Museum where students were yet again brought the realization of how horrible events happen and the resiliency of the people who survived. JCS is blessed to be able to take students on trips that make them think hard and continue to educate.



Events

Flight 93

On Monday, September 17, grades four, five, and six had the opportunity to visit the Flight 93 Memorial in Shanksville. Although it was a very wet day, the students learned a lot about 9/11 and came away with an appreciation for what the heroes of Flight 93 did that day.



Carnegie Natural History and Art Museum of Pittsburgh

On October 26, the sixth through eighth grade students at JCS traveled to the Carnegie Natural History and Art Museum of Pittsburgh. Students spent time at the museum studying other cultures when they explored how various Native American groups of the United States lived in the past and in the present. Students completed a scavenger hunt of this part of the museum comparing the food, shelter, art, music, and clothing of various tribes. In addition to this, students marveled at the world's third largest exhibit of dinosaur bones, examined unique and rare rocks and minerals, and stepped back into ancient Egypt on this memorable experience.



FINE Arts

County Chorus Festival

Eight students represented JCS at the Somerset County Chorus Festival held at Berlin High School on November 19 and 20. These JCS students joined their voices with more than 150 students from other Somerset County High Schools and were directed by guest conductor Dr. Ryan Beekan, choral professor from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.



Kayla Yoder, Sydney Holsopple, Mary Hostetter, Abby Holsopple, Grace Kabler, Kasmira Mack, Grace Ressler, Anna Eshleman

Somerset All-County Band

Fourteen students represented JCS at Somerset All-County Band held November 28-29 at Somerset High School. A concert was performed Thursday night at 7 pm with guest conductors Mr. Roger Johnston, retired Elementary Band Director from Meyersdale and Dr. Shannon Shaker from Frostburg State University.



High School

Jacob Custer, Felix Wang, Alexi McDowell with JCS Band Director Kari Hostetter



Middle School

Front Row: Sam Ribaric, Mikey Furdella, NeVeah Thompson, Allison Burkey, Dakota Wilson-Boyles

Back Row: Tyler Williams, David Struble, Samantha Eash, Abby Holsopple, Owen Miller, Lianna Carr

Alaska

Alaina Miller ('18) and **Adrianna Thomas ('19)** had the opportunity to participate in a week long trip in July with their church, Emmanuel, to Anchorage, Alaska. There they worked with local kids at a playground in the middle of a low-income neighborhood. In this area in particular, the majority of the population had somewhat recently immigrated to the US resulting in a lot of cultural diversity. The goal of the week was simply to show the kids that people care about them, and more importantly that God loves them and cares for them. Each day the team would play games, have time at the playground, assemble crafts, sing songs, and tell Bible stories with the kids. Anchorage has much brokenness due to parental drug and alcohol abuse and the effect is on their children.



"It was super powerful to see how God worked through us to cause transformation in these kids' lives throughout the week," Alaina commented. The team saw relationships growing each day. In the middle of the week, the team hosted a community park party for the families, and several kids accepted Jesus into their hearts. Families were thankful. Adrianna added, "Alaska was an incredible experience and blessing! It was truly beautiful to see how God worked in the hearts of the people there and our own team. The Lord is working in Anchorage, Alaska, and I am so humbled and blessed to play a small role in the work there."

Niagara Falls

This summer **Daniel ('20)** and **Mary Hostetter ('22)** went with their youth group on a missions trip to Niagara Falls.

Daniel served by beautifying a cemetery, working in a Salvation Army garden, and playing bingo with seniors at an area church. He enjoyed the cookout held for community members where he got to serve food to the attendees. Daniel developed a closer personal relationship with God on this trip and also was exposed to a different part of American culture.



Mary served in a soup kitchen, cleaned for a lady who had cancer, sorted items at a local food pantry, and decorated wheelchairs of people in a nursing home. Some of her favorite parts of the mission trip were handing out milk in the soup kitchen line, giving a dog a bath, and throwing moldy cantaloupes into a dumpster. This mission trip taught her how much need there is in the world. It also showed her how much God has blessed her.

Lima, Peru

This past July, **Megan Hodges ('20)** traveled to Lima, Peru, with her brother **Zachary ('17)**, and a group of people from their church, Greater Johnstown Christian Fellowship. While there, they served many children. They went out into the community and shared a Bible lesson with the children, gave haircuts, painted the girls' nails, and handed out treat bags that included soap and a toothbrush. A clown made balloon animals, and the team painted the children's faces. Megan enjoyed playing with the children and forming relationships with everyone. She learned that you do not need material things to be happy.



Kyiv, Ukraine

~ by **Laura Courtney, English Teacher**

This is the twelfth year that I have had the opportunity to serve at an English Camp in Kyiv, Ukraine. Our team was wonderfully diverse: 1 Aussie, 7 Americans, 4 Kiwis, and 1 Chinese/American. Throughout camp, we played games, had Bible discussions, watched a movie about the life of Christ, shared testimonies, sang worship songs, and clearly presented the Gospel.

God worked powerfully through the activities and the team to show Himself to the students.

One of the unique aspects of this year's camp was that none of my student partners were actually college students. Mary is getting her masters (and got married a few weeks before camp!); Natalia is starting a job teaching at a college (and got married in September!); and Ilona has an 8 year old son. They're all in their late twenties. Ilona is a Christian, and she partnered with me to reach out to the girls. Natalia was especially open and is very close to making a decision to follow Christ. Another unusual thing was that we had two brothers at camp who are refugees from Afghanistan. They have lived in Ukraine for about two years but don't know where the rest of their family is. They are



Shi'a (which is a persecuted/targeted minority in Sunni-majority Afghanistan), as well as being from an ethnic minority. They asked a lot of questions about Christianity, and Masih, the younger brother, was especially open about asking questions and sharing his beliefs.

Another aspect that differentiated this year's camp was **Sadie Sprinkle ('13)**. Sadie has been to camp for many years and served in Kyiv full-time, but this was her the last camp for the foreseeable future as she has followed God's leading to serve in Budapest, Hungary. Lastly, camp was very different for me as I have been recovering from a broken tibia. This made some aspects of camp a challenge, but it was a wonderful blessing to be able to serve in Kyiv again. I am grateful that God made a way for me to go and that He used me to impact the lives of Ukrainians.

Mongolia

This summer **Aubrey Cook ('19)** traveled for almost two days in order to get to the "end of the world," Mongolia, for two weeks. She and ten other people from Somerset Alliance Church served the missionaries and Mongolian people in various ways. The first week, they held an English camp for kids ages 8-20 in Darhan. They went over vocabulary, reading comprehension, American games and snacks, speaking, and crafts. Aubrey was able to share the Gospel with all of the kids using the wordless book and by doing a puppet show with another teammate. Comic Bibles and prizes such as a Gospel soccer ball were awarded. A

playground was outside of where the team was staying, and every day after the camp, Aubrey loved connecting with the kids. At first the kids wanted nothing to do with her, but by the end of the



week, they were almost inseparable and were together any chance they got. She says, "I felt like a celebrity, every time I would get out of the car they started yelling my name and the little boys would bring me flowers. One time I was in the building where we were staying and all of the kids came up to the window and started chanting my name until I came outside." The second week Aubrey served the full-time missionaries by taking care of their kids and teaching them multiple Bible lessons. The kids were able to have a fun time and got to experience lots of new things. Aubrey says, "God was really speaking to me. I will never forget that trip and the memories I made."

Kentucky

~ by **Jason Crissman, History Teacher**

Berkey Church had the privilege to go again and work beside the folks in Lost Creek, Kentucky, this past June. We stayed at the Riverside Christian School, working there during the days, and then held a Vacation Bible School up in the "holler" at Caney Creek Mennonite Church each evening. We have been blessed to be partners in the ministry with these organizations and continue to relish the opportunity to foster relationships between the church and the community there in the "holler." One of the most exciting things work-wise we did was the transplanting of several hundred plants. We dug them up and replanted them in over a dozen different homes as part of an outreach visitation program. It was hot and hard and dirty, but it was also supremely rewarding as we were able to bless and do home visits like we have never been able to in all the years we have been serving there. God continues to have great plans for Lost Creek and for the Caney Creek Holler, and we are blessed to walk beside them in the ministry.



Mission Team members from JCS

Front Row: Breanna Gerhardt ('18), Emma Roose (4th grade), Audrey Hart ('22), Sierra Eagleson ('16), Madison Roose ('21), Jeanna Harclerode, ('18)

Back Row: Sharon Crissman (former teacher), Lesly Roose (patron), Mike Roose (patron), Nick Rohrabough ('18), Josh Roose ('16), Nathan Hart ('21), Jason Crissman (history teacher), Bobby Antesberger ('17), Jennie (Bozic) Todaro ('11), Julianna Hart (patron)

Achievements AND Accolades

Spanish Honor Society

Seven **new** members were inducted into *The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica*, Miguel Cervantes Chapter. Students are eligible for membership when they complete Spanish I, are enrolled in a higher level Spanish course, and are achieving a grade of excellence. *The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica* is sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese.



Back Row: Anna Eshleman, Adrianna Thomas, Elianah Parker, Reilly McKay, Lillie Sprankle, Alexi McDowell

Front Row: Aubrey Cook, Daelynn McGeary, Isabel Calasara, Rachel Hartman, Casey Miller



Middle School Speech Meet

Each year, Johnstown Christian School requires students to practice and learn speeches in order to develop public speaking skills. This is a classroom assignment;

however, JCS hosts an in-house Speech Meet to honor students who gave an excellent performance in front of their classes. This in-house meet, held October 25, 2018, honors their talents and also their diligence. The students are scored by judges, both current and retired educators, who score students based upon their fluency, poise, audibility, characterization, and overall presentation. The scores are tallied, and then students are awarded ribbons.

Front Row: Simeon Parker, Jessey Dohey, Allison Burkey, Dakota Wilson-Boyles

Back Row: Solenna Mack, Sam Ribaric, Austin Safko, Zoey Stanton, Jacob Taylor, Michael Furdella

Spelling Bees

JCS held its annual Spelling Bee on Monday, October 8. Four students qualified to represent JCS at the District Spelling Bee. Congratulations to all the students who competed and took on the challenge!

Front Row: Jaydon Yoder, Caden Robertson, Ryan Winter, Lillie Werner, Alizah Parker, Rachel Crissman

Back Row: Cambria Kabler, Jema Calasara, Lydia Hostetter, Dakota Wilson-Boyle, Elijah Williams, Simeon Parker, Mikey Furdella, Jacob Taylor



On November 8, JCS had the privilege of hosting the ACSI District Spelling Bee with seven Christian Schools and forty-two spellers from Western PA participating. It was a joy to fellowship with other families committed to Christian Education.

Grade 5 Bee:

- Lily Werner - fifth
- Rachel Crissman - first

Grade 6 Bee:

- Cambria Kabler - seventh
- Lydia Hostetter - first

In the Final Spell Off Bee, Lydia placed sixth and is an alternate for the Northeastern USA Regional Spelling Bee. Congratulations to our students for all of their hard work and excellent performances at the competition.

BookJays

JCS BookJays participated in the IU8 Reading Competition held on Wednesday, December 5. The team scored 58 points, earning them a 1st place ribbon! The 5th and 6th grade team members have been preparing since May, reading books and practicing quizzing. As a team they read a total of 165 books with two of the team members reading all 40 books on the list.

Front Row: Lydia Hostetter, Jema Calasara, Sybella Mack, Ella Lushko, Olivia Lushko, Back Row: Brandon Carr, Cambria Kabler, Hope Ressler, Ellie Speigle, Jaydon Yoder

Coached by Jenny Hostetter and Tina Yoder





Kendrick Eastman—Preschool Aid

Kendrick is a 2018 graduate from Fairview High School in Fairview, Michigan. He joins us from Service Adventure, Johnstown. Kendrick lives in Kernville with the other Service Adventure participants; however, he enjoys spending time with his Johnstown host family, Tim and Jodi Mock. His days are spent in the preschool room assisting Mrs. Marks. Kendrick enjoys any sport and loves watching football. His favorite team is the Detroit Lions. Kendrick has two younger siblings. His favorite thing about JCS is the people: "They are all wonderful. This is a great opportunity."

Athletic NEWS

Cross Country SSMAC Champions

The Cross Country team won the SSMAC (Small School Mountain Association Conference) Cross Country Meet on Friday, October 12, in Cumberland, MD.



Color Run

The first annual Color Run was held on Homecoming day, October 6. Participants passed through powerful pops of color and all proceeds benefited JCS Athletics.

Santa Fund Soccer Classic

Congratulations to Laken Horner and Kaylee Sarcee who represented JCS in the Santa Soccer Classic soccer game on Sunday, November 24, 2018, at Trojan Stadium. The Santa Classic featured outstanding senior soccer players from the area. The proceeds provide holiday gifts to children across the Cambria and Somerset region.

Fine Arts—continued from page 4

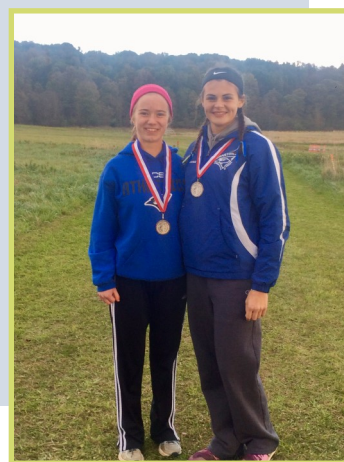
New Offerings at JCS

This school year JCS is grateful to be able to offer an additional art elective for our high school students. Under the instruction of Mrs. Rachel Parker ('95), students are developing photography proficiency. This elective has two, three, and five



Twice as Sweet! Two Advance to Hershey

Congratulations to the Cross Country team who finished in third place at the District Meet on October 28, 2018. Lorna Speigle finished in second place and Mary Hostetter in fifth, qualifying both girls for the state competition November 3 in Hershey, PA. This was Lorna's fourth and final trip to Hershey and a first for Mary, who is a freshman.



day offerings. These students are expanding their expertise in lighting, editing, composition, as well as becoming familiar with DSLR cameras. A look at photography from a historical perspective is also being incorporated. The students' work was highlighted at this year's annual art show. In addition, some student pieces will be entered in some local competitions.

Alumni NEWS

Engagements

Fred Mort engaged to **Bethany Miller** ('10) on April 7, 2018.

Nahum Louder ('14) engaged to **Megan Spory** ('15) on October 11, 2018.

Marriages

Joshua Stillwagon married **Courtney Ickes** ('09) on September 8, 2018.

Daniel Inman ('10) married Rachel Davis on July 21, 2018.

Jennie Bozic ('11) married Cody Todaro on October 12, 2018.

Luke Gutwald ('11) married Katie St. Clair on September 1, 2018.

Dylon Hudson ('12) married Jocelyn Lonsinger on October 20, 2018.

Uriah Peruso ('13) married Marisa Baum on August 18, 2018.

Births

Jason ('96) and **Vikki Crissman**

Daughter, Maggie-Marie, on August 7, 2018

Frank ('05) and **Kelly (Kuchenbrod)** ('02) Carr

Son, Lincoln Elliot, on September 19, 2018

Deaths

David Hostetler ('62) passed away on November 2, 2018.

Updates

Chris Garretson ('94) along with his wife and 4 children recently moved to Martinsburg, PA. He is the pastor at Memorial Church of the Brethren in Martinsburg as of October 1, 2018.

Melina (Hunsberger) Hess ('07) is currently working at Modern English School in Cairo, Egypt, as a special education teacher in the elementary department. Last July, Melina completed her M.Ed. through Ball State University.

Please call (814) 288-2588 or email kmack@jcsfamily.org with alumni news.

Notice BOARD

Help JCS Save Money

If you would be willing to receive *The Messenger* electronically, please send your name, address and email to kmack@jcsfamily.org so we can update your information.

Memorials

"Now the lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all."

-2 Thessalonians 3:16

It is a joy to receive gifts that are sent to acknowledge a loved one. We are very grateful for the gifts received from the following:

In Honor of **SETH NICHOLS**

Marion DeMeester

In Honor of **EDEN AND JAKE HARTNETT**

Rev. Lonnie Semetosky

In Memory of **JILL ARRINGTON**

Dr. Wanda Stewart

Save the Date



ALUMNI, PLEASE UPDATE

Planning for the 75th Gala Celebration has started. We are looking to update alumni contacts. Please visit the website and make use of the form found under the Alumni tab to **update your contact information**.

ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL OR LIVING LEGACY FUND

If you would be interested in pursuing either a Memorial Fund or a Living Legacy Fund in order to honor a loved one, contact Celeste Sprankle, Administrator, at csprankle@jcsfamily.org.

*Engaging Minds * Building Character * Deepening Faith*



UPCOMING EVENTS



Please be in prayer for these events:

- Winter Fund Letter Writing Campaign starts in January
- Open House—February 7
- Spring Patron Meeting—March 12
- Reenrollment Ends—March 21
- HS Drama Production—April 11-13
- MS/HS Fine arts Nights and Spring Choral Concert—April 30
- Choir Tour & Mission Week—April 1-May 5
- Blood Drive—April 3
- 39th Annual Arts & Crafts Festival—May 11
- Band Concert—May 16
- Elementary Fine Arts & Spring Choral Concert—May 21
- Graduation at Emmanuel Church—June 7