



WILMINGTON  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2017 Volume 1

# PATHFINDER



# PATHFINDER

Contents

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 Champ Thornton  
 David Tideman  
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 High School Principal  
  
 Sandy Kroeber  
 Business Manager

2016-2017 School Verse

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,  
 "I am the light of the world.  
 Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
 but will have the light of life."  
 John 8:12 ESV

Pathfinder 2017 Volume 1  
 Robin Foster, Editor  
 Tammy (Alston '85) Kater, Designer

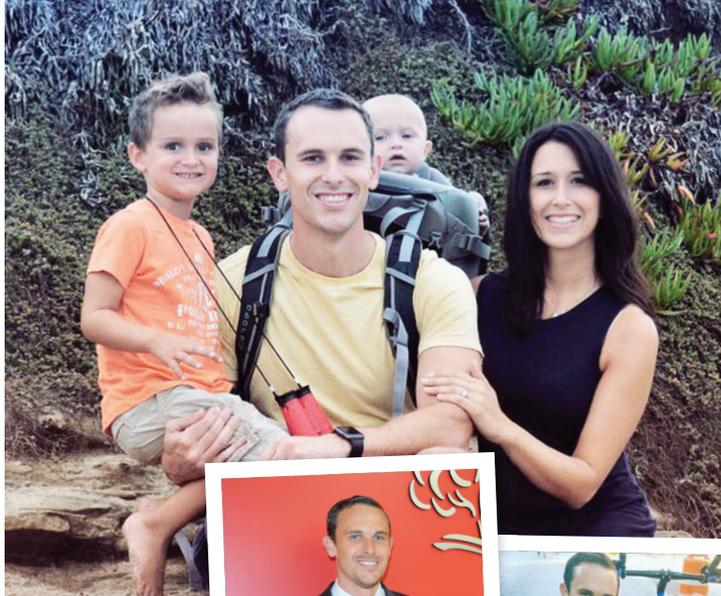


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*Exciting News!* Wilmington Christian School has just added Pre-K2 for the fall of 2017/18. Families may choose between either 3 or 5 day programs (with the choice of either half or full days). Students will enjoy a fun and well-rounded age-appropriate program including: exploration with hands-on activities, music, arts, and more. Spaces are very limited. Interested? Please call the Admissions Office at 302-239-2121, ext. 3205.

**WCS Mission Statement**

Wilmington Christian School provides a Christ-centered, challenging academic program with instruction based on the Biblical view of God and the world. WCS teaches, influences, and encourages each student to effectively integrate Biblical truth into his/her daily life and to impact the culture for Christ.



Wilmington Christian School is pleased to congratulate Michael Smith as the Alumni of the Year. Michael graduated from WCS in 2003. He was active in sports and music and felt closest to the Lord while participating as a member of the worship team through song. Michael came to WCS after his mother died. His grandmother, his angel and best friend, raised him. He credits her with saving his life by sending him to Wilmington Christian School. Through coaches, youth leaders, and Principal Haas, he saw the benefits of being a Christian and how to set an example and live a Godly life.

Michael is currently the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships for the College of Health Sciences at the University of Delaware. By connecting students to Community needs, the school is able to fulfill its commitment to help Delawareans through education, healthcare, and economic development. Those benefiting from their services include: patients with Parkinson's disease, children with mobility impairments, adults with brain injury, as well as world class athletes.

Michael has a passion for giving back and helping people and recognizes no matter who we are, we all have our health in common. Outside of his role at the University of Delaware, he

participates on a committee that will bring an inclusive playground to the city of Newark, putting kids with mobility issues on the same playing field. Michael is on the board of the Newark Senior Center, working to keep people's minds and bodies working after retirement. On most weekends, he can be found, with his family, volunteering for a local charity or assisting with the children's ministry at their church.

"Each morning, I ask myself this question, what can I do to make Delaware a better place to work, live, or play? From starting a Charter School to volunteering at our church, to building a playground for all children, taking care of my family, feeding the homeless or campaigning to help friends run for office, I'm entrenched in the Delaware community and try to be the best version of myself every day to do my part to make Delaware a great place to work, live and play through Christ."

Michael lives in Newark, DE with his wife Christy and their two boys Braedon (5), Nathan (2) and their dog Bruiser.

*Michael has a passion for giving back and helping people and recognizes no matter who we are, we all have our health in common.*

## Wilmington Christian School PARTNERS WITH CARDIOKINETICS

CardioKinetics is a licensed medical provider founded in 1979 to provide quality health care and Preventive Medicine services. Their mission is to "Produce Healthier People-One at a Time." This is accomplished by helping people maximize their health potential by bridging the gap between reactive and preventive Medicine.

At Wilmington Christian School, we believe that caring for the physical well-being of our students and faculty is an important factor in who they are as men and women of God. Since the start of the school year, CardioKinetics has been conducting biometric screenings for our faculty and assisting participants through personalized training sessions. Our athletes also have the benefit of using certified trainers on-site to guide and support their physical goals. Our Physical Education classes have training in multi-sport physical fitness as well as hands on experience in improving individual levels of fitness, with a main focus on high intensity interval training (HIIT) and cross training.

CardioKinetics offers corporate health and wellness programs and solutions regionally as well as nationally.



*CardioKinetics' exercise physiologist Josh Hall stresses the importance of maintaining proper technique while strength training. Strength training is extremely important when recovering from an injury as it is with Grace Howle. This class was designed to help students improve strength, speed and flexibility by participating in specific strength and cardio circuits. Phillip Wang trains to improve overall strength and coordination.*

# FUN RUN!



The annual Fun Run was given a makeover this year through the partnership with Boosterthon. Students from Prek through high school participated in a school-wide event to raising money for campus improvements. The week-long event included a Pep Rally and culminated with a Fun Run for our Elementary and a Color Run for our Middle and High school students. During the week, Boosterthon representatives assisted in classrooms promoting their Backyard Box Office theme, encouraging kids to make a difference in their communities.



# HAVE A HEART

Katy Bauer started Katy's Heart to Hold when she was just ten years old. She used to do rounds at the hospital with her dad, a thoracic surgeon, and she noticed how much pain some of his patients experienced as a result of their incision, especially when they coughed. Coughing was an essential activity to clear their lungs, but with a chest scar, it was also very difficult. Katy wanted to help alleviate the pain, so she had an idea. She started Katy's Heart to Hold, making a small pillow for each patient to "hug" to help cushion their scar. Over the years, she has made and given thousands of pillows to patients at Christiana Care and the Helen Graham Center.

Fast forward eight years. Katy is a senior and will be graduating in June. We have been looking for a someone for her to pass the torch to for about two years, and God has provided the answer with sixth graders Grace Danner and Emma Fetterman. Both girls have been enthusiastic participants in the middle school sewing class and are becoming expert seamstresses. Katy shared her vision for this ministry with them and now Grace and Emma are ready to receive the torch.



But they need your help! Monetary donations will be accepted so that we can purchase supplies such as fabric and stuffing, and student volunteers are needed to sew the pillows. Once we have obtained supplies, we will host a Heart to Hold service opportunity in late April or early May for volunteers to pin, sew and stuff our first batch of pillows. We hope to include students from our entire school community, so stay tuned for details of the time and date. We also plan to make this an ongoing project so that many students will be able to carry on Katy's ministry under Grace and Emma's leadership.

*Cheryl Schultz*  
Garment Construction teacher

*We have been looking for someone for her to pass the torch to for about two years, and God has provided the answer.*



## CONGRATULATIONS *Richard Hickman*

Richard retired this year after 22 years as the High School Girls Basketball coach. Beyond coaching, Richard had a major impact on our students. Having had three sons and two daughters who graduated from WCS, he became so much more than a "Coach." Many of our students looked up to him as a mentor and role model - giving Godly advice about future

decisions and making them the best they could be for God in all areas of their lives. As this chapter closes, the impact he made continues. Richard, thanks for the many ways you have loved Wilmington Christian School and its students and for sharing your life and family with us over the years.



## STUDENT CONFERENCES



BUDAPEST



*WCS student leaders at the Freedom Bridge on the Danube.*



*Students present their newly created leadership action plan to other schools. Stay tuned for its impact at WCS!*

### Association of Christian Schools International Student Leadership Conference

Eleven Wilmington Christian School juniors and seniors traveled to Budapest Hungary to participate in the Association of Christian Schools International Student Leadership Conference. This is the third time that WCS has attended this conference, which was founded by Headmaster Emeritus Bill Stevens nearly two decades ago.

Wilmington Christian School was the sole U.S. school at the conference, and our students were able to spend time sharing with students from other Christian schools around the world, as well as leading small groups and worship. At the culmination of the conference, students from each school

shared the plan that they had created to implement back at their own school. WCS students spoke of establishing Leaders in Training (L.I.T.), which they envisioned as a bi-monthly lunchtime meeting to encourage leadership growth among the student body. Speakers have been brought in, including State Representative John Lawrence ('96). The group is growing stronger, and students have the hope that L.I.T. will continue throughout the years, and will help WCS students further hone their leadership skills in preparation for graduation, college, and the workplace.



### Passion Conference

Five WCS seniors attended the Passion Conference. The theme for this year's conference was MAKE HISTORY TOGETHER. Along with Compassion International, the goal was to find sponsorship for every unsponsored child in Tanzania, El Salvador, and Rwanda.

Our students learned about community in small groups and then as part of the awe-inspiring experience of 60,000 strong worshipping our Lord. One voice, three countries, one gathering. Several students volunteered to sponsor a child.



# got talent ?

Wilmington Christian School proudly presented an all school talent show entitled "Got Talent?" on Friday evening, November 4th in the Fine Arts Auditorium. The show was designed purposefully as an all school event, in the hopes of giving the students of WCS an opportunity to share their talents, some known and some unknown, with friends, family and the WCS community. Over 25 contestants or groups of contestants performed as singers, dancers, instrumentalists and jugglers, and all prepared an amazing assortment of entertainment .

Each contestant was evaluated on a scale of 1-10, and our panel of judges looked for evidence of preparation, thoughtful coherence, entertainment value, and demonstration of skill and artistry. At the end of the night, scores were tabulated and the performer or group of performers representing each of our school divisions (elementary, middle, and high) who had

received the highest point value was awarded a specially designed trophy from Mrs. Bradley and our Art Department.

Our outstanding panel of judges for the event consisted of alumni or parents of alumni (or both!) who had had the wonderful experience of watching their children's talent grow and develop at WCS. So it was sheer pleasure to welcome back Brenda Ley, Kerry Weber, Steve Kay,

Kathy Wargo, and Robbie Dieke.

Ariana LoVerde was the Elementary School winner, who performed a gymnastic routine to the song "God Is On The

Move"; Sabine Danner won for the Middle School division performing ballet to "Swan Lake" and Jenny Xu (flute), Dino Cai (cello), and Xenia Pan (piano), representing the High School

division performed the 1st movement of Carl Von Weber's Trio for flute, cello and piano in g minor.



## Proclaimers Meet WCS Cast Member of Sunshine on the Leith



Andrew Dingwall ('18) attended the Proclaimers concert in Philadelphia, wearing a Wilmington Christian School tee from WCS's 2014 performance of "Sunshine on Leith." After the concert, Scottish band members Charlie and Craig Reid signed his tee, and said that they had heard about the school in Delaware that had performed the first North American production of their show!

Saturday May 13th  
10 am - 4 pm



### FEATURING

#### Live performances

- Jubilee Singers
- String Ensemble
- Jazz Band
- WCS Choir and Band

#### Arts & Crafts

- Garment Construction
- Wearable Art
- Food trucks

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Renovations

Our students are enjoying our new Learning Commons for a host of activities, including classes, study halls, and Bible studies. We have been blessed through the provisions of the Capital Campaign and many investors who have helped us make this a great place that inspires our students and gives them a sense of pride about our school.

Elementary students love the new turf surface on the playground, and visitors to campus comment on studio art displayed in the Art Gallery.



## WCS On The Move

Our athletes are all a buzz about our new ride!  
**Thanks to the Acierno Family for their generous donation.**



## Independent Conference

Wilmington Christian School has accepted an invitation to join the Independent Conference of Delaware Schools next academic year (2017-18). The move to the conference will introduce changes to our sports participation consistent with our Christian teachings here at WCS.

## Curriculum

As we evolve our curriculum to provide offerings that meet the needs of our students and prepare them for college, we are introducing several new programs for the 2017/2018 school year, including Business Management, Media Arts and an internship program. In response to student and family feedback, we believe the introduction of these programs will further diversify our offerings as well as advance our curriculum for our students.

## 2016 ELEMENTARY BOOK FAIR

During September, we celebrated our 10th annual Book Fair with Scholastic, Inc. In addition to the incredible assortment of books available for purchase, we were blessed with lunchtime book-talks and a visit from Clifford; a high school student who pitched in to help create a memorable atmosphere of excitement and awe; and PTF provision of popcorn snacks. It also became a time to reflect on the many treasures God has bestowed upon our school, in particular, the amazing parents, grandparents, faculty and friends who help our students embrace reading as a priority in their lives. The Book Fair provides an opportunity for students to purchase books for their home libraries, as well as raise funds to support their classroom education. Over the years, proceeds from these fairs have allowed us to equip classrooms with interactive whiteboards and hundreds of new books.

Since this was our 10th anniversary with Scholastic, Inc., we did a little sleuthing and came up with some exciting statistics:



*Since 2007, WCS families have purchased over \$78,000 worth of books for our children.*



*This represents almost 16,000 books...  
...and over 2.8 million minutes of reading time!*

Thank you for partnering with us to make this event such a success. Mark your calendars for next year's Book Fair: September 18-21, 2017.

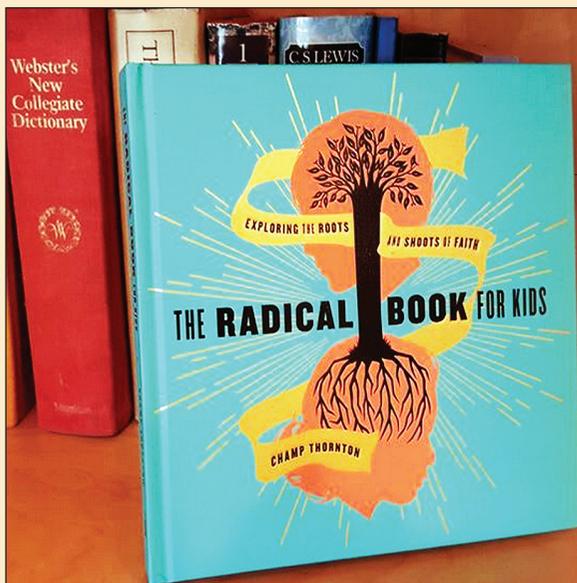


## The Radical Book for Kids: *Exploring the Roots and Shoots of Faith*

*We just saw a copy of Champ Thornton's new book, "The Radical Book for Kids: Exploring the Roots and Shoots of Faith." Champ is a Wilmington Christian School parent and Board member.*

*Amazon reviews that the Radical Book for Kids is "a fun-filled explorer's guide to the Bible, church history, and life for boys and girls age 8 and up. Along with examining some of the most exciting realities in the universe, the handbook is vibrantly illustrated and chock-full of fun facts and ideas. Deep truths are communicated to elementary and middle-school aged kids while stimulating their curiosity and sense of adventure within a gospel-centered framework." The book became available on Amazon in October.*

*We are proud of the work that WCS families do in furthering the work of God's Kingdom!*



# Student SHOWCASE

This year three WCS students successfully auditioned into the Delaware All-State Choirs! **Dana Sorey** earned the #1 spot in the state within the Sr. Mixed Choir Alto 2 section, and **Jaclynn Johnson** earned a spot in the top 10 students in the Jr. Chorus sopranos. **Alan Liu** also placed highly within the Sr. Mixed Choir Bass 1 section. Congratulations, singers!



**Meggie Lengkeek** was honored at Delaware State University in February as one of the state's Gold key winners in art. Her work is also being considered for the national exhibit for scholastic winners.



Congratulations to WCS junior, **Andrew Dingwall**, 2017 All-State Winner. Andrew successfully auditioned and tied for 1st Place on bassoon in the All-State Orchestra. The concert was held Saturday March 4th @ 9PM at The Tatnall School.

Congratulations Poetry Out Loud WCS winners! The winner of the competition is junior, **Andrew Dingwall**. Runner up is senior, **Becky Soistmann**. Third place winner is junior, **Christian Reilly**; fourth place is freshman, **Ivana Thompson**; and fifth place is junior, **Meggie Lengkeek**.



WCS Junior, **Christina Bourantas** was recently honored as a Leadership Ambassador of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists.



More than 200 student-athletes from across Delaware attended the Student Leadership Conference DIAA - SODE (Delaware Interscholastic Athletic Association and Special Olympics of Delaware). The goal of the event was to get more schools involved in unified sports. We thank these students for representing WCS.

The Wilmington Christian Math League team ended the regular season on a high note, qualifying for the State Invitational Meet.

WCS entered the final meet in third place in the region, trailing AI Dupont by 2 points. Led by strong performances by **Kira Guo** and **Sarah McNeill**, WCS pulled ahead to earn a spot in the State Meet. Guo and McNeill, along with **Tiffany Lu**, **Patrick Ou** and **Richard Zhang**, will travel to Dover in April to face the rest of the top teams in the state.



WCS sent two delegates, **Christina Bourantas** and **Nick Kater** to participate in the Mock Elections held in Dover.



**Brendan Malone and Aliyah Navarro** were named to the Diamond State Athletic Conference All Conference cross country team.

Aliyah made 1st team all conference for her 7th place finish in the girls conference meet and Brendan made 2nd team all conference for his 10th place finish in the boys conference meet.



## SPANISH IS BACK

Spanish is back in part of the Elementary school! Beginning this semester, Mrs. Day began teaching Spanish to our Pre K 3 through 1st graders. Mrs. Day has taught Spanish III and IV full-time to WCS's high school juniors and seniors for almost two years now. She is thrilled to be able to share the gift of learning another language with the WCS elementary students as well. Mrs. Day was born and raised overseas in the country of Chile. Her parents have been Assemblies of God missionaries for over 30 years, and she was raised as a bilingual child.

Mrs. Day teaches the elementary student classes for 20 minutes a week, and she has been focusing on not only teaching the children their shapes, colors, numbers, etc., but also how to pronounce them correctly. With her high school students she constantly tells them, "You can have all of the knowledge in your head regarding vocabulary and grammar, but you also must know how to speak the language properly." Mrs. Day puts a strong emphasis on phonetics not only in her high school classes, but also in her elementary classes. She has been very pleased at how well the children are doing. Each week she sends home a little review sheet for the parents to read through. The sheet communicates not only what was learned in Spanish class that week, but how the child can practice at home as well.

*She is thrilled to be able to share the gift of learning another language with the elementary students*



**Victoria Drumheller** is one of the students from Delaware to win the Wendy's High School Heisman scholarship.

The award honors high school seniors for academic and athletic achievements and community leadership.

Victoria (Tori) will receive a \$1,000 college scholarship, silver medal, commemorative patch and a \$50 Wendy's gift card. She will also be eligible to become a national finalist, where one female and one male winner will each receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Delaware winners were chosen from among 20 state finalists.

**Patrick Kelley** attended the Inauguration in Washington, DC through Envision.





**WILMINGTON  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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# Save THE DATE

**Grandparent's/VIP Day** - April 13

**Easter Break** - April 14-23, No School

**Fine Arts Festival** - May 13, 10am-4pm

**Memorial Day** - May 29, No School

**State Fair 4th Grade** - May 31

**Graduation** - June 3

**Last Day of School** - June 8

PATHFINDER is published bi-annually by Wilmington Christian School

A special thanks to everyone who contributed articles, photographs, and information!

If you have an article, photo, or WCS experience you would like us to consider sharing through Pathfinder please contact [rfooster@wilmingtonchristian.org](mailto:rfooster@wilmingtonchristian.org)



## CHANGES TO DRESS CODE



It was announced to our students in 2017 that the current dress code was expanded to include Warrior Wear. On top of the existing uniform, students may wear WCS athletic jackets and hoodies.



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