



WILMINGTON
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2017 Volume 2

PATHFINDER





PATHFINDER

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Lesley Aulick
- Shannon Bullock
- Robalee Deike
- Brett Dorsch
- Michael McCudden
- Linda Schwind
- Lynn Simpson
- Rene Solis
- Champ Thornton
- Kevin Wargo

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- Gwen Campbell
Elementary/Middle School Principal
- Melonie Fetterman
Director for Advancement
- Douglas Haas
High School Principal
- Sandy Kroeber
Business Manager

2017-2018 School Verse

"Those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you."
Psalm 9:10 (ESV)

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.



Farewell to William Stevens

It is still difficult to imagine Wilmington Christian without Bill Stevens' daily leadership, godly influence, and, yes, his famous sense of humor. Simply put, we will miss him greatly. After seventeen years, it is with deep appreciation and respect that we celebrate Bill's retirement and follow the next chapter in what the Lord has planned for him.



“You folks are very dear to me. Whether it's your teasing (or mine), your hugs, our conversations or your commitment to God's purpose in your children's lives here, I will take with me so many memories of our years together. Blessings to you for the blessing you have been to Berta and me. Please be reminded of the Scripture I often shared with you, that is at the heart of my 17 years with you:

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth” (III John 4).
My heart to yours,
~Bill”*





On Saturday, June 3, 2017, forty-seven Wilmington Christian School graduates, donned in their white and red gowns, entered the Fine Arts Auditorium to the familiar tune of "Pomp and Circumstance," played by Xenia Pan. Once seated, Mr. Mike McCudden, Chairman of the Board, stepped to the podium and gave welcoming remarks. He did not want to conclude his welcome without thanking former Headmaster, William Stevens, and former board members, Mr. Mark Wagner and

Mr. Dave Tideman for their faithfulness and service to WCS. Following the welcome, senior parent, Mrs. Tiffany Sorey, read the senior verse, Colossians 2:6-10.

High School principal, Mr. Doug Haas, poignantly gave the commencement challenge. He reminded the audience that every year, the graduating class is given a word to ponder. He recalled previous words and said that this year's word is "wait," not "weight," but "wait." He spoke about our culture, and how we hate waiting because it means giving up control. He rhetorically asked the audience, "Do you enjoy waiting in a fast food line, or for a wifi connection?" He also reminisced about

the 2009 graduation ceremony that was postponed because a tree had fallen on the nearby power lines. The WCS family had to wait until the evening to have the graduation commencement. As comic relief, Mr. Haas brought to the stage part of the tree limb that had fallen on the power lines that day. The speech was eloquently spoken with reference to Noah waiting 100 years to build the ark, and Abraham and Sarah waiting 75 years before they gave birth to their son Isaac. To conclude, Mr. Haas quoted pastor John Piper by saying "Something happens while waiting. It brings patience, character, and closeness to God."

Shortly after the challenge, the faculty and staff were recognized for their years of service: five years- Mrs. Carol Allston-Stiles, Mrs. Andrea Boulet, Mr. Len Hansell, Ms. Stacy Howle, Ms. Helen Ruan, Mrs. Amy Spangler, Mrs. Lynae Spratley; ten years- Mrs. Kelli Pitman, fifteen years- Mr. William Soistmann; twenty years- Mrs. Sandy Kroeber, and thirty years- Mrs. Tina Eisenhauer, and Mrs. Elle Straley. The faculty recognition ended with the yearbook dedication which was given to cherished administrative assistant, Mrs. Karen Pill who retired this year. It was presented by senior editors Allie DeHart and Aliyah Navarro.

The student awards were then presented by Mr. Haas and Mr. Stevens. Since many of the seniors graduated with honors, this portion of the program took the

CLASS OF 2017 COMMENCEMENT

"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Colossians 2:6-7 (ESV)

longest, but it was well worth it because there were so many recognized. Receiving the Headmaster "Emeritus" Awards were Victoria Drumheller and Forrest Thomas. Additionally, receiving the following department awards were: Victoria Drumheller for Bible, Aliyah Navarro for English, Dana Sorey for Foreign Language, Bohan "Dino" Cai for Music, Zebang "Nick" Zhang for Visual Arts, and Kira Guo for Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. There were countless other awards, but too many to recognize.

The Valedictorian, Wenbo (Kira) Guo, gave a brief and challenging speech where she spoke of her experience of first arriving to the United States. She said she had never heard of Delaware, but she had a desire to study in America. She spoke fondly of her memories with the class, and how well she was treated. She said her classmates cheered when she hit a volleyball over the net for the first time. Then, on a serious note, Kira challenged the class to embrace uncertainty. Salutatorian, Sarah McNeill, spoke of success in failure. She recollected the class' Spirit Week failures, and how before losing the annual competition, the class had envisioned success. The losing of the competition made them recognize where they placed their priorities. She challenged the class with the question, "How do you define success?" She then left the class with the scripture from Matthew 6:21-29, instruct-

ing them to place their sights on God, and that He never disappoints.

Emily Spangler, Autumn Lockard, and Victoria Drumheller gave the final student addresses. All of their short and touching speeches were filled with gratitude toward parents, and teachers who helped them get where they are now. Emily referenced the movie "Finding Dory," and asked the audience, "What are you finding?" She continued with saying that the Lord is with us through trials, and to "just keep swimming." Autumn Lockard was next to the podium. Her teary-eyed speech was filled with gratitude toward fellow classmates that have helped her along the way: Joy Pennington, Emily Spangler, Alexis Gallagher, and Christian Reilly. Last to give a speech was Victoria Drumheller. She referenced Proverbs 22:6, and challenged the class to not forget where they came from. She mentioned that many students go to college or into the workforce and forget the biblical teaching they learned from WCS.

At a little past noon, the senior class of 2017 turned their tassels and became the 39th graduating class of Wilmington Christian School.

*Celinda Conteh
HS English Teacher*



The Class of 2017

WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Elizabeth Baffone
The Catholic University
of America



Katharine Bauer
Franklin and
Marshall College



Ta-Brea Fields-Miller
Norfolk State University



Francesca Fioravanti
Westminster Choir College



Morgan Fowler
Delaware Technical
Community College



Alexis Gallagher
Widener University



Mackenzie Gallagher
Widener University



Autumn Lockard
Undecided



Shane Lopes
Virginia Tech



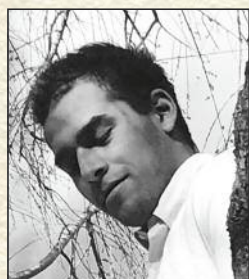
Sarah McNeill
Wheaton College



Eric Minemier
High Point University



Jordan Modzelewski
University of Delaware



Martin Reynoso
Williamson College
of the Trades



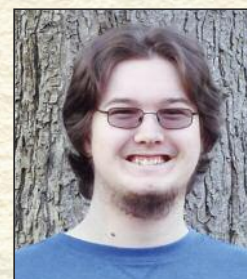
Julia Robinson
McDaniel College



Matthew Sanders
Pennsylvania State
University



Gianna Scalia
Wilmington University



Alexander Sederquest
University of Delaware



Forrest Thomas
University of Delaware



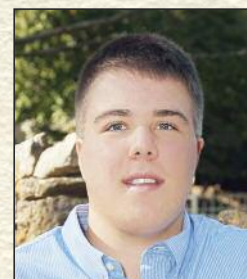
Sara Tideman
Gordon College



Olivia Tyler
Delaware Technical Commu-
nity College



Daniel Walsh
University of Delaware



Ryan Williams
University of Delaware



Elizabeth Brustman
DePauw University



Bohan Cai
Temple University



Kaitlyn Chambers
Eastern University



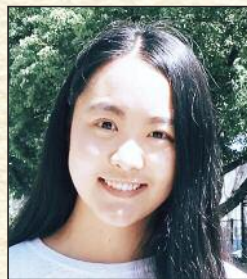
Alexandra DeHart
Houghton College



Victoria Drumheller
Liberty University



Elise Nicole Glouser
Stevenson University



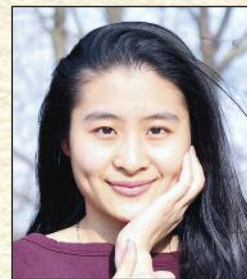
Wenbo Guo
University of California,
Berkeley



Zelin Guo
Syracuse University



Wesley James Hicks
West Chester University



Lihong Lin
University of Delaware



Aliyah Navarro
University of North Carolina
at Charlotte



Haley Neville
East Carolina University



Joy Pennington
University of Delaware



Amy Powers
Cedar Crest College



Benjamin Rettig
Pennsylvania State University



Rebecca Soistmann
University of California, LA



Dana Sorey
University of Delaware



Michael Sorowice
Liberty University



Emily Spangler
Elizabethtown Honors Col-
lege



Yi Su
University of
South Carolina



Amanda Yerkes
Pennsylvania State
University



Zebang Zhang
Academy of Art University



Zehao Zhang
University of California



Zhigu Zhou



Yiting Zhu
University of Massachusetts

Kira Guo

VALEDICTORIAN



Good morning Wilmington Christian School Class of 2017 and congratulations on getting here. Before I begin, I would like to thank all of the family, friends, community members, and staff that are here today. This is a special moment for each and every one of us. Also, a special thank you needs to go to my parents for supporting me in all of my endeavors and flying sixteen hours across the Pacific to attend this ceremony.

On January 3rd 2014, my flight from Hong Kong landed in New York. I had no idea what was waiting ahead of me, and I was overwhelmed by excitement, anxiety, joy, and fear, just like what I feel right now. Over the years, people always asked me, "Why Delaware?" To be honest I had never heard of Delaware before I came here. My answer to the question was, "I don't know." The only thing I remember is my desire to study in the United States and see what makes this land a great country. Without hesitation, I accepted the plan for my life and came to Wilmington Christian School. I have never regretted my decision. At first, I didn't know any of my classmates and I was too afraid to talk with them. But I remember the whole class waiting patiently for me to organize my language; people came to my aid when I didn't know how to order food and friends cheered for me when I hit a volleyball over the net for the first time. These things sound simple, but for me, they were new, and I am grateful for all the kindness that I received from everyone. As I got to know my classmates, I saw a diverse group of talented people. This class has the best athletes, in track, wrestling, and field hockey. This class also has great artists, musicians and singers. When my college interviewer asked me "what do you like the most about your high

school?" I told them that it has a sense of optimism, a spirit of always being hopeful for the future. Having a passionate heart and being hopeful for the future are exactly what we need as we proceed to the next chapter of our lives.

Many of us are nostalgic today and filled with excitement and uncertainty at what the future holds. We will no longer be seeing the familiar faces at school every day, and we will probably not be surrounded by our families everyday anymore. Receiving the honor as valedictorian hasn't lessened my anxiety about the future. I worry a lot. What if I don't get into the major I want? What if I don't get into the classes I want to take? What if I don't like the food in my college? How do I know what is the right path to choose to get the result that I desire? The answer is, I won't, and accepting that has greatly eased my anxiety. Four years ago, I never thought I'd be delivering this speech in a foreign country in a foreign language. Four months ago, I didn't know that I was going to be spending the next four years on the west coast. Uncertainty is the reality of life, and the best antidote to fear is our curiosity and passion.

Class of 2017, go forth into the real world. Make our lives what we want them to be. Our hometown does not limit what we can achieve, but supplies us with a place to fall back, a place to call home. Remember those who have got us to where we are today and appreciate those who will help us in the future. Remember to be always curious and passionate, to embrace uncertainty, and to be true to ourselves.

Thank you and congratulations, Class of 2017.

Sarah McNeill

SALUTATORIAN

How do you define success? Everyone in this room has experienced success, whether it be in the form of an A on a particularly hard test or a win in a championship sports game. In the same way, each of us has experienced failure. When I think of failure, one of the first things that comes to mind is Spirit Week.

For those of you in the audience who aren't familiar with this school tradition, let me set the scene: It's the last week in January. Each high school class writes a skit and designs posters that are judged against each other, to determine the winning class. During our senior year, as our class began writing our skit and constructing our posters, we could have been discouraged remembering our past Spirit Week experiences, namely how we lost the competition freshman year, sophomore year, and junior year. Instead we entered the week with a strong sense of determination. We came up with what we thought was a winning theme, spent countless hours building our posters (one of which was equipped with lights), and wrote a skit that ended with a well-choreographed final dance. I'll be the first to admit that in years past, our class hasn't been the most prepared, but this year we were serious. We put in the effort and had our sights set on first place, second if we were being more realistic. So you can imagine our surprise when on Friday morning the winners were announced and we found out that we placed third, and our skit was ranked fourth, which might not have been so bad if there weren't only four classes competing.

I'm not bringing up these painful memories, because I'm still bitter about the results (which may or may not be true), I'm mentioning it, because I think it's a perfect opportunity for us to reevaluate how we define success. Our class's initial instinct was to envision success as a first place prize, so when we didn't place first, we felt like we failed, meaning all our hard work was for nothing. If we would reconsider our priorities and shift our thinking, we might

see that regardless of the results, we were successful. I've never seen our class as united as we were that week, volunteering for roles in our skit and huddled around, putting the final touches on posters. We found a common goal and put aside our differences, so that we could work together to try to reach it. In this context, that is how I define success.

So, seniors, today is the final time that we will all be together in one room. As each of us moves on to the next stage of our lives, I want to challenge each of you to consider the question: How do you define success? As you go off to college or enter the workforce, you'll feel the pressure to achieve success, in the way the world defines the word. As a college student, success may be measured by your GPA. When you find a job and begin your career, it might be measured by your salary, the house you live in, or the car you drive. But the problem with this is that none of these things last. It's written in Matthew 6:19-21, Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Later in chapter 6, Matthew adds, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money." I'll admit it's nice to see the results of hard work, but these worldly rewards should not be our focus or our goal. If we make them our priority, we will find ourselves discouraged every time we fall short, but if we place our sights on God, we will find that He never disappoints.

Class of 2017, God has a great plan for each and every one of your lives. I know that if you keep your eyes fixed on God, you will find success no matter where your life takes you.



Class of 2017, God has a great plan for each and every one of your lives. I know that if you keep your eyes fixed on God, you will find success no matter where your life takes you.



Pre K3 CELEBRATION

PK3 celebrated the completion of a wonderful fun filled school year. We sang a few of our favorites songs and each child was awarded a certificate of completion for a job well done!

Mrs. H surprised the class at our celebration by bringing in her guinea pig "Miss Pigolina" to wish the children a happy and fun filled summer. They were able to pet her, feed her and get their picture taken with Miss Pigolina.

We had so much fun this year learning our letters, numbers, shapes and working our way through the Bible. Memories were made while making many of our crafts. The children's favorite classroom activity by far was making our classroom city. Buildings of all shapes and sizes decorated our classroom. We also enjoyed making birdseed feeder ornaments to hang outside around the school. A special highlight this past April was visiting Longwood Gardens and learning about flowers from Mr. Davis. What an amazing year we had in PK3!



Pre K4 CELEBRATION

On Monday, June 5, Mrs. Molin's and Mrs. Kay's PK4 wrapped-up a fabulous year with a celebration in the elementary library. Guests enjoyed a special program of songs and Bible verses presented by the PK4 children. Songs included, An "ABC" song, and a variety of numbers in Spanish led by Senora Day. The program was followed by a PK slideshow highlighting the year. Each child was presented with a Certificate of Completion and a bucket full of fun things to enjoy during the summer. Following the program, everyone enjoyed a delicious brunch and a time of visiting and reminiscing. What a wonderful way to kick off summer vacations!



Kindergarten CELEBRATION

As their proud parents looked on, the kindergarten class marched into the Fine Arts Center on Tuesday, June 6, to celebrate a wonderful year in school. Mrs. Campbell welcomed the children and their parents, and gave thanks for what the Lord has done in the lives of these precious students. Pastor Robert Kossak, a kindergarten parent, opened the ceremony with a prayer for our students and their families.

The children then shared with the parents what they had learned throughout the months of kindergarten. The children counted to 100 by 5's and 10's, sang some of their favorite songs, and chanted the alphabet cheer. Parents were delighted to hear the children sing the names of all 45 Presidents of the

United States. Mrs. Day led the students in a medley of Spanish songs.

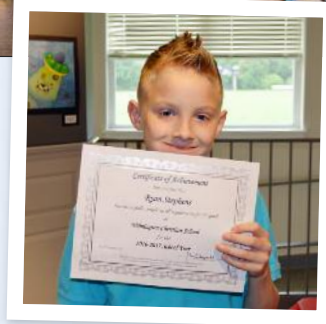
The highlight of the program for many was to hear the children recite Psalm 23 from memory. Learning Psalm 23 is a Wilmington Christian School kindergarten tradition which provides the children with a concrete reminder of God's love and protection.

The students gave their teachers a final hug and received a graduation medal and a certificate of completion of kindergarten. Pastor T.J. Loverde then closed the ceremony for the Class of 2029. Parents, grandparents, teachers, and children all shared in a festive and happy reception to end the school year.



On Wednesday, June 7th, our fifth grade students celebrated the completion of their time in the elementary school. The students sang their “theme song” as part of the celebration, “Diamonds.” “He’s making diamonds out of dust; he is refining in his timing; he’s making diamonds out of us.” Several students shared what WCS has meant to them. Luke Ballenger received

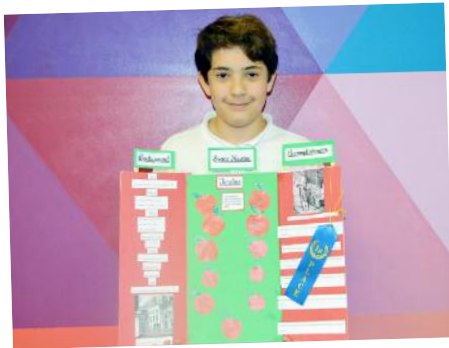
the Principal’s Award for showing through words and actions the qualities and characteristics of a maturing Christian. The students also gave a portion of their Market Day proceeds to the Mercer family who are missionaries to Hungary. Their daughter Kira was a part of this fifth grade class while they were on furlough. Have fun in Middle School!



Eighth Grade
CELEBRATION

Our 8th graders completed their middle school career with a celebration on Thursday, June 8th. Natalie Mathena shared her faith story, and Chad Lopes shared some of his favorite memories about WCS. Jaclynn Johnson’s solo “Amazing Grace” was a blessing to all in attendance. Ten of our 8th graders started their time at WCS as kindergartners! Katie Walsh receive the Christian Character Award, as chosen by the middle school faculty and staff. We wish our middle school students well as they head off to high school.

MINI *History* DAY



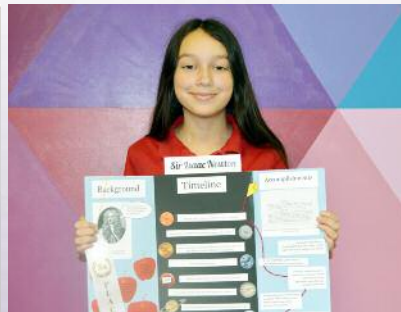
Our seventh grade Mini History Day was held in late May. Students complete a ten-week, highly structured series of lessons and activities to research a person from the Renaissance and then portray their life in a small tabletop display that features background information, a creative timeline, and major accomplishments. A collaborative effort between Research Skills, Social Studies and English, students learn how to use primary and secondary sources of information, develop good research questions, and properly cite their sources. All the work is done in class. We are



especially proud of this year's students and the outstanding job they have done in researching and creating their projects, and we think some of them even had fun along the way. An impartial judge helped determine the most outstanding projects, which received ribbons. Even better, when students return as eighth graders, they will have the confidence and skills necessary to fulfill the requirements for their National History Day research, as well as future assignments in English, science and other areas of study.



*Cheryl Schultz
Trey Speers
John Mason*



Group Exhibit winners:

**1st Place - Gabriella Costantini
and Francesca Tyler**
"Galileo"

**2nd Place - Sabine Danner and
Abby Hausbeer**
"William Shakespeare"

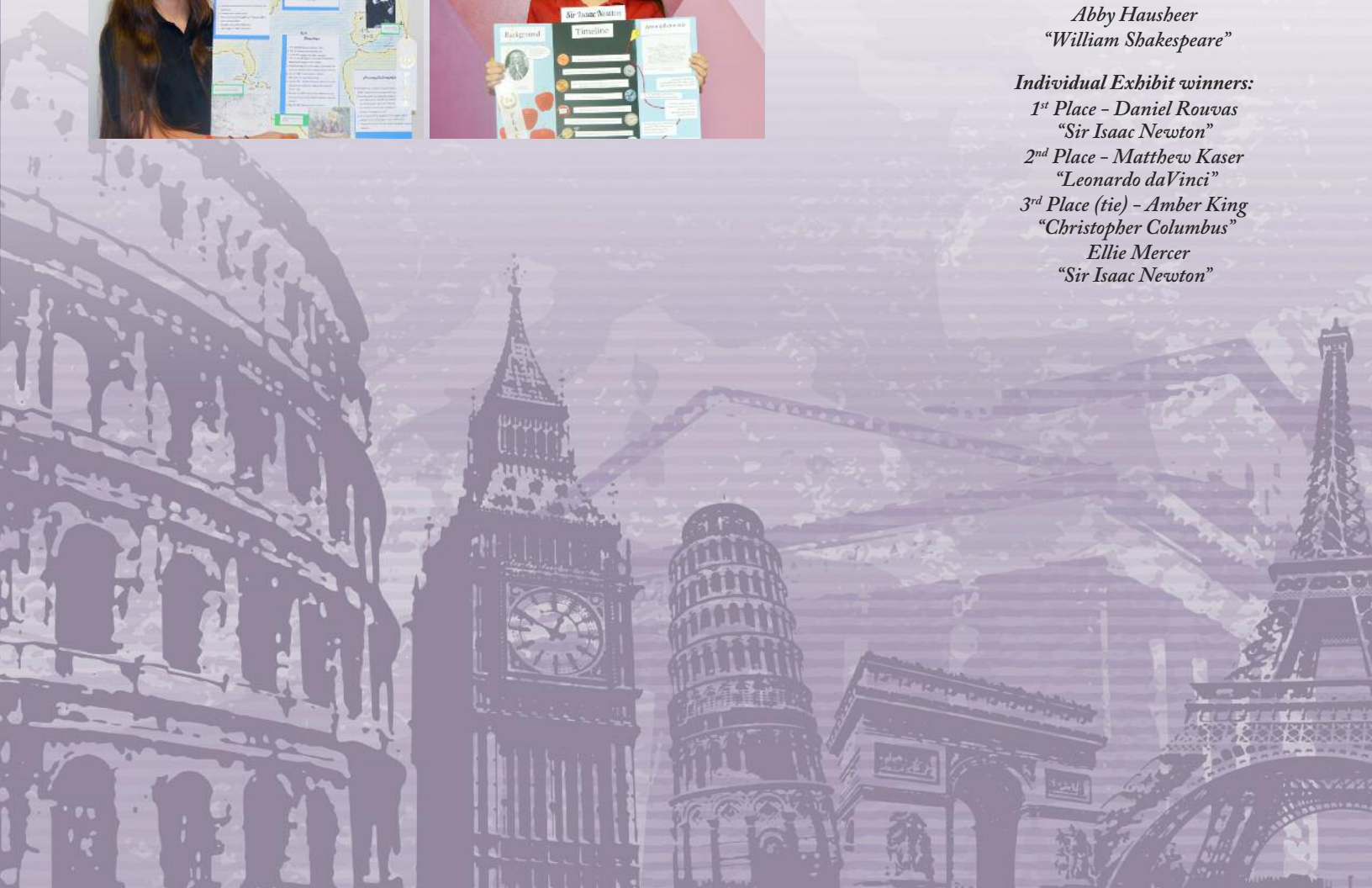
Individual Exhibit winners:

1st Place - Daniel Rouvas
"Sir Isaac Newton"

2nd Place - Matthew Kaser
"Leonardo daVinci"

3rd Place (tie) - Amber King
"Christopher Columbus"

Ellie Mercer
"Sir Isaac Newton"





WHAT'S NEW?

2-YEAR-OLD PROGRAM

We announced earlier this year the expansion of our Early Education program to include 2-year-olds. The response to the addition of the program has been exciting! Mrs. Alene Heider has planned a wonderful year for our littlest students, and we are excited to see Pre-K2 take off.

HOMESCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

In our State of the School message, we announced a pilot effort exploring the possibility of a partnership with the Homeschool community. Based on the results and positive feedback from our participants and faculty, we'll be extending opportunities to Homeschool students starting in the fall. This is a great opportunity to meet a need in the community by sharing our facility and the gifts of our faculty.

“As a former homeschooling dad, I'm committed to supporting parents with educational resources and opportunities in a Christ-centered environment—resources and opportunities that help families provide a more well-rounded education for their children.”

Dr. Roger Erdvig, Headmaster
Wilmington Christian School



Welcome Roger Erdvig

With a leadership career spanning 27 years, Dr. Roger Erdvig has served as a business, church, and educational leader, and most recently as Superintendent of Smithtown Christian School, a PreK-12 school of 550 students in Long Island, New York.

Prior to his eight years at Smithtown, Dr. Erdvig traveled nationwide training Christian business and educational leaders in leadership development, and was co-founder of the Center for Coaching Excellence in St. Paul, Minnesota. A teacher at heart, Dr. Erdvig has also taught leadership at the University of Valley Forge and has extensive experience in public speaking and teaching in the areas of parenting, Biblical worldview, and leadership coaching. Dr. Erdvig has also authored and co-authored multiple training curricula, a journal article (in *Christian School Education*), and a forthcoming book, *Serving Learning for Christian Schools: A Practitioner's Guidebook*. He holds a BS in Bible from the University of Valley Forge, a Master of Education from Regent University, and a Doctor of Education from Liberty University.

4th Grade State Fair

The 4th Grade State Fair is always one of the fourth graders favorite days of the year! The students spend a lot of time researching the fabulous things about their states and then decide what they want to display on State Fair Day. Should I have a raffle or a game? What food should I serve that my state is famous for? What facts about my state make it unique? The State Fair is fun for everyone! All of the elementary students get to visit the State Fair and lots of middle school and high school students also come back and visit too.

This year we had lots of fabulous state fair booths. We had Maine with a LIVE lobster that was auctioned off! We had Colorado with tons of information about her state. We had Washington with state-shaped sugar cookies. Michigan had a raffle and lots of fun state information. New York had a fabulous display of state symbols.

All of the students worked very hard to display great state information, have a state food sample and games. Some of the students even “dressed” for their state with special t-shirts or hats. A fabulous day was had by all!



Alumni PROFILE

Christina and Max Sanders, sister and brother alumni in 2015 and 2013 graduation classes, serving on mission in Nairobi Kenya with Tamani World Children Project, in July 2017.



Tamani World Children Project

Tamani Kenya is a small community based organization operating in the Kwa Njenga slums of Nairobi. It began in response to observing the great needs of many abandoned and abused kids, children who needed the safety of a home and support of a family.

Tamani World Children Project is the US based nonprofit purposed to raise funds to feed and care for the orphans of the world.

This photo includes the children of Tamani as well as caregivers and mission team members in Isinya located 25 miles south of Nairobi, the future site of the orphanage.

Max Sanders celebrates his graduation from Penn State University, University Park, December 17, 2016 from the Smeal College of Business with a BS in Marketing and a Minor in Business Law.





WILMINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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Save THE DATE

Elementary & MS Back-to-School Night - Thursday, September 14th, 7:00 pm

High School Back-to-School Night - Thursday, September 21st 7:00 pm

WCS Book Fair
September 18th-21st

All School Fun Run
Friday, October 6th
1/2 Day Dismissal at 11:45

No School - Columbus Day
Monday, October 9th

WCS Homecoming
October 13-14th

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 rfoster@wilmingtonchristian.org

UPDATE HEART TO HOLD

The baton has been passed and the work has begun! Recent WCS graduate Katy Bauer began the Katy's Heart to Hold pillow project about 10 years ago. Her desire was to provide small pillows to assist patients recovering from surgery at the Helen Graham Cancer Center. Over the years, she had made and donated thousands of pillows. Last spring, Katy met with rising seventh graders Grace Danner and Emma Fetterman to explain the project. Under the direction of Garment Construction teacher Cheryl Schultz, Grace and Emma spent some of their long summer days making pillows to replenish the supply. Armed with new fabric and fresh enthusiasm, the girls hope to complete two to three hundred pillows by September!



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