Building for future continues
by Board Chairman Bill Meadowcroft

One of the great gifts of involvement at Cedar Tree has been the many opportunities these past 13 years to practice the commands to “give thanks in all things, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thess. 5:18) and “give thanks always and for everything to our God and Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:20). This is a learned skill as so much of life involves wounds, disappointments and frustrations and many reasons to be impatient rather than grateful.

It is with Paul’s reminders of God’s eternal call to gratitude that the board of trustees updates our wonderful school community (you!) on recent facility and financial matters that are sure to delight, but may also risk disappointing and stealing our hearts from the abundant thanks due our kind and sovereign Lord.

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Training selfishness
by Tom Bradshaw

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others” (Philippians 2:3-4).

Central to Christian living is a unique call to imitate the humble sacrifice of God’s Son in becoming human and in giving up his life on the cross. This call to humility embraces all ages, and includes younger children being raised in Christian faith and practice. In an era where selfishness is defended and even celebrated, educating children to this kind of service will inevitably stand out as unique.

In order to make clear the degree to which training children to be others-centered contrasts with our normal habits of child-raising, I am imagining a “how-to manual” for parents and teachers that promotes self-centeredness in its various forms:

“How to Train Selfishness in 9 Easy Steps”
1. Never require chores, because chores involve serving others. Model that work is a grudging obligation to be avoided if at all possible.
2. Make expectations as minimal as possible. Better yet, offer lots of choices so that the child may choose according to his personal preferences.
3. Argue with your spouse and others in front of children and insist on getting your way. Modeling self-centered behavior can be extremely contagious.
4. Demand that your children behave … for your own personal benefit or your own personal reputation.
5. Whine or complain frequently, and seek to grant the wishes of children who follow your example.
6. Cultivate a victim mentality by continually pointing out that all those in authority (and even their peers) are in the way of things they deserve.
7. Discourage generosity or sharing at all costs. (Beware of the “slippery slope.”)
8. Avoid praying. To do so would imply that you aren’t in control.

Let’s be honest: these steps come all too naturally. They are the path most commonly followed as our own Me-First Generation seeks to raise up the next Me-First Generation. Graduates this time of year are counseled to “Live your personal dream” and “Define success in your own terms.” Parents are encouraged to “Let your child find himself” and “Encourage them to seek their inner feelings.” In fact, a call to do something different than promote children and students to live in a “Kingdom of Self” will stand out for potential ridicule. In contrast to fostering the pervasive self-absorbed living (including what often passes for “love” in our society), we are calling for and working toward a spirit of humility not of this world.

Unlike the contrasting steps above, training a servant’s heart is likely going to seem somewhat mechanical, particularly at the early phases. But it’s important that Christians agree that humility training is an essential part of education. When Jesus invited his disciples to follow him, he was clear about his demands to “deny yourself and take up your cross.”

May we all join together as parents and teachers to make this kind of education a priority for the rising generation. Me first.

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Valedictorian Daniel Chapman expresses appreciation for his education at commencement, encouraging students to value the hard work that prepares them for the more difficult future.
Photos above left: 1) The Performance Choir sings “You’re a Grand Old Flag” for auction guests. 2) Auction guests Tara Bohlke, Ursela Trantham, Bob Bruechert, and Harley Morgan compete for a prized I-Pad. 3) L2 students Jeaniana Meadowcroft, Owen Carlson, and Stephen Danielson listen to opponent Bethany Foster in the Logic 2 Debate.

Graduates look to build on legacy

The seven graduates of 2012 pursued varied interests in their high school years. Four of them—Daniel Chapman, Micah Meadowcroft, Jirah Reckinger, and Jana VanderPloeg—regularly performed in Cedar Tree’s drama productions, making this spring’s *The Importance of Being Earnest* somewhat bitter-sweet as classmates realized it was their last show. Kelsey O’Neill also pursued theater, performing often with Christian Youth Theater.

However, Ian and Zac Jones pursued sports, lettering in varsity tennis for a local public high school their junior and senior years, and competing at the state level this year as a doubles team. They will play tennis for Whitworth University where they earned a Whitworth Scholarship towards Ian’s engineering studies and Zac’s computer science.

While the Jones lettered in their sport, their classmates received recognition at graduation for being in the top 10% of high school graduates in Washington State. This is no small feat. To graduate from Cedar Tree, a high school student completes the equivalent of an honors program or four years of the following: mathematics, science, literature, rhetoric, history, and theology. Their final two years of rhetoric—oral and written composition—culminate in thesis projects. In fact, one cannot graduate without passing his senior thesis which requires a memorized presentation in the spring, the students’ summarized theses presented the evening of May 17 this year.

All the graduates plan on college in the fall, Jirah pursuing visual arts at the University of Washington while Kelsey studies biology at Washington State Vancouver. Jana will pursue liberal arts and music at New St. Andrews where she earned the Padeia Scholarship. Micah will attend Hillsdale College where he earned the Hillsdale Tradition Award and Hillsdale Merit Scholarship to study history and economics with an eye toward international journalism. Daniel travels to Grove City College where he is a Presidential Scholarship candidate to study English and computer science. Both boys received National Merit recognition, Daniel as commended, and Micah as a Finalist.

Character & diligence honored

In addition to receiving grade reports every quarter, students are evaluated by their teachers in the practice of godly character, diligence and service on campus as part of our community effort to *cultivate minds and nurture hearts for effective, Christ-centered living*. But at the end of the year, consistency in these areas are honored.

So during this year’s commencement, students in grammar grades and beyond were recognized for outstanding achievement in both categories. For academic excellence, the following were named: Myah Carley, G1; James Corey, G2; Joshua Freitag, G3; Evan Bancroft, G4; Alyssa Peterson, L1; Brian Cupp, L2; Sarah Sheets, R1; Chris Riback, R2; Nathanael Meadowcroft, R3; and Daniel Chapman, R4. Recognition for most improved student in the grammar grades was given to Ben Rice, G1/G2, and DiMico Ferguson, G3/G4. Those honored for a Servant Heart were Sara Bradshaw, G1/G2; Joshua Bradshaw, G3/G4; Amanda Josberger, Logic; and Kara VanderPloeg, Rhetoric.

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We are currently working with an architect and a civil engineering firm to chart the best comprehensive plan for the use of our beautiful 15-acre property, including a phased construction of the main structure. Using this detailed planning, construction estimates to build a simplified Phase III multi-purpose building with needed classrooms are fast approaching a million dollars. In seeking to be wise stewards of the school’s resources in rough economic times, this price tag prompted the Board to weigh the options and to take action with prayerful consideration.

Consequently, thanks to our generous lenders who have forgiven debt and lowered interest rates to us, our financial picture is now much more solid and our annual interest expense has been cut in half. We plan to permit, purchase, and place one more modular building on campus this year. This additional building will provide much-needed classrooms and dry indoor space, and serve to buy a couple years of time to raise funds for the next phase of construction, the beginnings of a permanent structure that was such a distant dream when we started with 30 students in Hazel Dell Evangelical Free Church in 1999. The timing of this construction is in the Lord’s hands as He moves His people to feats of generosity that we have seen time and again.

So the Board asks you to join us in giving thanks to the Lord “for He is good, His loving kindness endures forever,” even as we pray and labor to see our facilities expanded, our debt reduced, and our community deepened in our knowledge that “unless the Lord builds the school they labor in vain who build it.”

Auction launches legacy

On May 11th, friends old and new joined together at the Heathman Lodge for our most successful fundraising auction ever. The generosity of our guests was nothing short of amazing. Everyone in attendance, and those who couldn’t be with us, came together to Launch a Legacy as they helped us to raise over $130,000 for Cedar Tree’s facility needs.

As Auction Coordinator Mrs. Peggy Ike wrote, “This spring we saw seven young men and women graduate, most of whom were in Cedar Tree's first kindergarten class. With the launching of these outstanding graduates, and the laying of our permanent building's financial foundation, the Cedar Tree legacy has been launched. We are most blessed by everyone’s support, and give thanks to God for you.”

More students soar on Latin Exam

Students in our Latin program continue to display prowess on the National Latin Exams, taken annually in March. More than a third of 7th graders (L1) earned top honors, earning the most gold medals ever in a single class. Our 8th graders (L2) earned three gold medals.

Of 148,000 students representing 50 states and 13 foreign countries, 38% received awards. Of our students in G3 through L2 who tested, over 50% received awards. 8 of those earned gold medals, our highest count in the seven years of participation. Gold winners in L1 were Alyssa Peterson, Sarah Morgan, Sam Stringer, Joseph Barnes, and Tiana Scruggs. L2 gold medalists were Brian Cupp, Stephen Danielson, and Jeaniana Meadowcroft.

Photos from far left corner, clockwise: 1) The cast of The Importance of Being Earnest poses on stage with directors Mrs. Beth Kaler on left, and Mrs. Stacy McIntosh on right. Mrs. Kaler designed costumes and sets for the comedy, serving 3 shows that drew over 200 in attendance. 2) Nathanael and Micah Meadowcroft play friends who don’t always please the other. 3) Latin Exam winners smile after receiving their awards. 4) Emperors’ Day winners don their togas of honor after the annual “Last Man Standing” competition of Latin grammar and vocabulary in the courtyard: Hank Hughes, G1; Sawyer McIntosh, G2; Annalise Peterson, G3; and Sophia Ryder, G4. 5) Mrs. Sue Lincoln directs the G1 handbell choir on Field Day, June 8. 6) Mrs. Brabec’s G4 class celebrated the tradition of a day trip to Multnomah Falls at school’s end.
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Cedar Tree exists to provide an excellent classical Christian education that cultivates minds and nurtures hearts for effective, Christ-centered living.

Cedar Tree depends upon the prayers and generosity of God’s people. We thank Him for His continued grace in sustaining our labor to cultivate Christ-centered wisdom and eloquence.

Cedar Tree graduates and underclassmen celebrate a job well done and the ushering in of summer.

4th Quarter Alpha/Beta Academic Achievement Awards*

**Alpha Awards**
- Myah Carley
- Sliman Farran
- Isaac Bancroft
- Sam Bradshaw
- Evan Carley
- James Corey
- Jessica Barnes
- Sophia Brubee
- Camille Capp
- Joshua Freitag
- Marissa Hunter
- Eli Loudenback
- Isaac Lu
- Cai McIntosh
- Annalise Peterson
- Evan Bancroft
- Megan Sheets
- Joseph Barnes
- Hannah Dillinger
- Sarah Morgan
- Alyssa Peterson
- Brian Capp
- Sarah Sheets
- Chelsea Hansberry
- Christopher Riback
- Nathanael Meadowcroft
- Abigail Ridgeway
- Kara VanderPloeg
- Daniel Chapman
- Micah Meadowcroft

**Beta Awards**
- Rachel Cairns
- Kyle Armstrong
- Chloe Chapman
- Elise Florence
- Logan Valkama
- Joshua Bradshaw
- DiMico Ferguson
- Ron Hanson
- Amanda McShea
- Claire Morgan
- Karice Seekins
- Elin VanderPloeg
- Emma Hunter
- Amanda Josberger
- Tiana Scruggs
- A.J. Trantham
- Bethany Foster
- Emerson Loudenback
- Lia VanderPloeg
- Kelsey O’Neil
- Jirah Reckinger

*While academic grades do not tell the “whole story,” Cedar Tree honors students who earn all A’s with an Alpha Award. Students who earn A’s and no more than two B’s receive a Beta Award.*