

OCTOBER / 2024

2024 | FALL ISSUE

Character | Community | Leadership



SANTIAM CHRISTIAN
EAGLE EYE

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2024 Fall Issue

The 2024 Fall Issue of the Eagle Eye provides a fun and engaging overview of the happenings at Santiam Christian Schools.

Check out the Events and Ongoing Projects from the Development Office for updates on our Capital Campaign Project...

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Santiam Christian Christmas Market

November 16, 2024

Santiam Christian Gym

Join us again this year for Santiam Christian's Annual Christmas Market! Last year's event was a wonderful showing of creativity by all of our incredible vendors, and we look forward to doing it again this year! If you would like to participate in this year's Christmas market, or have a friend who may be interested, please email jagichs@santiam.org for more information on having a booth.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Santiam Christian Annual Auction

May 3, 2025

Lights, Camera, Auction!

This year's annual benefit auction will be held on May 3rd, 2025. Put it on your calendar for a night of fun, food, and good company!

More information to come.



Projects Update

Capital Campaign

Steve Jagich



Demolition of the Laborer's Training Building. This demo will open up space for the new Elementary Building.



Demolition of the Field House. The new space now provides more parking for families and fans.

As part of the preparation for the new elementary building at SC, we have begun the demolition of a few older buildings on campus. While these buildings have served us well over the years, their removal is essential to make room for the state-of-the-art facility that will better serve our elementary students' needs. This phase of the project began in late August and will continue through the month of September. Though it marks the end of an era for these spaces, this is an exciting step forward as we continue to invest in the future of our school and students.

This project represents an exciting opportunity for the SC community to come together and support the future of education and the future of our school. Businesses interested in contributing can participate in various ways, from sponsorship opportunities to providing services or materials for the construction of the building. To learn more, please scan the QR code to the right provided by Gerding Construction, or contact Steve Jagich in our development office directly at jagichs@santiam.org

We warmly invite you to visit the development office to see the latest updated renderings of our new elementary building and to learn more about the ongoing progress of this exciting campaign. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, share ideas, and discuss how you can get involved in supporting this project. The updated designs reflect our vision for a modern, innovative learning space, and we would love to share this vision with you in person. Feel free to stop by or schedule a time to chat with us—we look forward to connecting with you!



The old Preschool Building getting torn down to make way for the new Elementary Building!

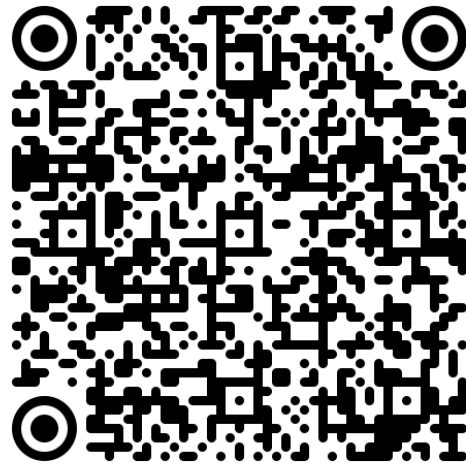


Preschool students getting a front row seat to the demolition!



Interested in Bidding on the New Elementary Building Project?

Scan the QR code to fill out the form.



Elementary Building Layout

Each grade level will have three classrooms. The gym, art, music, and STEM rooms will be state of the art. The gymnasium will open more gym space on campus, optimizing SC's ability to develop more Elementary sports programs.



Elementary Building, South facing courtyard and playground.

Elementary building main entrance.



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Elementary building exterior, South facing courtyard.



Elementary building layout.

Washington Leadership Conference

This past June, Santiam Christian FFA students Grace Faber, Jackson Kent, and Kyle Page participated in one of the pinnacle events for an FFA member – attending the week-long Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) in Washington D.C. The FFA boasts the conference as a top leadership experience, immersing members in both large lecture style and smaller hands-on training sessions, with the added benefit of exposing attendees to the rich history of the D.C. area.

Each session the WLC hosts roughly 350 FFA members from around the country, giving members not only the opportunity to learn from presenters but also make valuable connections with peers. WLC focuses on principles of exploration, encouragement, advocacy, and service, and at the end of the week, members leave with a “Learning to Serve Plan” they can implement in their own chapters and communities.

Highlights of touring included a night tour of the prominent monuments, visiting Arlington National Cemetery and Mt Vernon, and an afternoon to explore the Smithsonian (which for anyone that’s been, knows that’s NOT enough time!). One morning also included significant time on Capitol Hill. After a tour of the US Capitol, members were allotted time for meetings with Congressional members. Thanks in part to connections through SC Alum Shelly Boshart Davis & FFA Alumni member Kathy Hadley, the 3 had great experiences meeting with Chair of the House Ag Committee, Congressman Glenn “GT” Thomson, and Oregon’s Congresswomen Lori Chavez-Deremer (Congressional District 5). They also met with staff from Senator Wyden’s office.

The SC FFA Alumni & Supporters were able to aid the 3 with their travel and registration expenses through funds raised at their auction last January. The group was chaperoned by Kyle’s mother Shannon Page, who also attended leadership training sessions geared toward the advisor capacity, and now brings that knowledge back to help support the chapter through the FFA Alumni & Supporters group.

Faber, Kent and Page are all officers with the Santiam FFA Chapter for the '24-'25 school year, and benefited greatly

both individually and with how they can guide and lead the chapter in their senior year of high school.



Faber, Kent, and Page enjoyed the view from Chair of the House Ag Committee Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson’s office balcony.



A highlight for WLC attendees is a night tour of prominent monuments including the Franklin D. Roosevelt monument.



Touring included prominent monuments like the World War 2 memorial. Grace, Jackson, and Kyle were excited and proud to be representing Oregon!



The monument tour included the famed Lincoln Memorial.



The students had an opportunity to talk about FFA and agriculture policy with one of Oregon's newest congressional representatives, Congresswomen Lori Chavez-Dereemer (CD5).



Time on Capitol Hill included a tour of the US Capitol building and 3 congressional meetings.

Staff & Teacher Spotlight

Name

Tyler Ferguson

What subject do you teach?

High School Mathematics

How long have you worked at Santiam Christian for?

9 years, going on 10

What are some of your favorite things about working at Santiam Christian?

I love the community. It is one big family. We get to support each other and the kids through many different activities.

Why did you choose to teach the subject you teach?

I enjoy math. I love the basic truths it teaches us about our Creator. It is logical.

What led you to pursue being a teacher?

I enjoy people and math. Teaching math gives me the opportunity to combine both of those.

What is your favorite memory from this past school year?

One of my favorite memories was dressing up as Santa Claus with my elf assistant, Mason Ball, and handing out candy canes in the morning. The free carwash Mrs. Peterson and my small groups put on for Serve Day is another great memory.

What are you most excited for the 2024/2025 school year?

I am excited to see everyone again, hear their summer stories, and have a fresh start with a new school year.

How were you encouraged by school last year?

The kindness of my students and colleagues.



Name

Kami Hettwer

What subject do you teach?

Elementary Music

How long have you worked at Santiam Christian for?

3 years, going on 4.

What are some of your favorite things about working at Santiam Christian?

I cherish my time at Santiam Christian for several reasons. First, the school fosters an environment of flexibility and encourages creativity and innovation in teaching methods, allowing me to explore new ways to inspire my students. Second, witnessing the enthusiasm and growth of my students is incredibly rewarding; their eagerness to learn fuels my own passion for teaching. Lastly, teaching in a faith-based school is a profound blessing, as it allows me to seamlessly integrate my love for music education with my personal Christian values and beliefs, creating a holistic educational experience for my students.

Why did you choose to teach the subject you teach?

I chose to teach elementary music because I believe in the profound impact music can have on a child's development and spiritual growth. Teaching elementary music allows me to combine my passion for music with my desire to inspire and nurture young minds, helping them to discover and develop their own talents and love for music, while also deepening their worship and connection to Christ.

What led you to pursue being a teacher?

My decision to become a teacher was inspired by my mother, who was also a teacher. Helping in her school and running daycare programs gave me valuable experience. Additionally, my music teachers throughout my life were incredibly influential, further igniting my passion for teaching and music education.

What is your favorite memory from this past school year?

One of my fondest memories from this past school year revolves around a new behavior incentive I introduced called the 'Mystery Musician.' At the start of each class, I select a mystery student. If they exhibit exemplary behavior throughout the session, they earn the opportunity to ring the gong a number of times corresponding to the class's accumulated points. This activity has become a beloved tradition school-wide, fostering not only memorable moments but also promoting better behavior among the children.

What are you most excited for the 2024/2025 school year?

I'm most excited for this school year because I'll be in a new classroom in the old Art/Tech Building with fresh paint on the walls, a larger space for group activities, and brighter surroundings with more windows. The new storage in the music room will also allow materials and instruments to be much more accessible. I can't wait to use my new space to create even more memorable musical experiences!

How were you encouraged by school last year?

I've been encouraged by the strong sense of community at our school, where the support from both teachers and administrators has been invaluable. Additionally, the prospect of a music classroom in the new Elementary Building is incredibly exciting. Having all our students and staff in one space would not only enhance convenience but also foster a deeper sense of unity and purpose. I'm eager for the opportunities this new space would provide to expand our musical programs and further nurture the spiritual and creative growth of our students.

Letter from Superintendent

SC Family,

“The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.” Psalm 37:23-24

I am encouraged by that verse today! Our Lord is ever present in our lives, guiding and directing; there is no need to worry. He cares for each of us and every step we take! The more mature I get, the more grateful I am for His care and love. As we approach another year at Santiam Christian, we can be confident that our Lord is working in our midst, building us up to be a light to this world.

There is no doubt there are big things in front of us. A campaign to build a new elementary school for one! A huge step of faith, but then again, he calls us to believe Him for the big things we could never accomplish without him. Whether escaping the mouth of a lion or watching the walls of a city fall, he is always present in the prayer of faith.

Just a few months ago, we graduated another stellar group of students from SC, and our halls are filled with another group of new students that we have been so excited to welcome into our school family. It is the natural ebb and flow of an educational institution that has been partnering with parents for the last 45 years. Our mission remains strong - to assist Christian parents who adhere to our Statement of Faith in the training of their children by providing a Christ-centered, academic environment that encourages the development of a Christian worldview emphasizing academic excellence, Christian character, responsible citizenship, and service to others.

It is a joy to walk this path with each of you! May God bless our school as we work together to equip the next generation.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Stefan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "S".

Al Stefan
Superintendent

Welcome Steve Reed, Santiam Christian Athletic Director

Dear Santiam Christian Community,

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Athletic Director here at Santiam Christian. I am honored to join such a dynamic and supportive community, and I am eager to contribute to the continued success of our Eagle Athletic programs.

My vision for this role is to nurture an environment where student-athletes thrive spiritually, academically and athletically. This year promises to be an exciting one, with opportunities to enhance our programs, support our talented athletes, and build upon the strong foundation that has been established. I look forward to collaborating with our dedicated coaches, engaging with our families, and cheering on our student athletes as they strive for excellence.

Thank you for welcoming me into this role. I am excited to meet you all and work together to make this a memorable and successful year for Santiam Christian athletics.

Warmest regards,

Steve Reed,
Athletic Director



Thank you to our Athletics Sponsors!

Your sponsorship plays a vital role in providing our student-athletes with the resources and opportunities they need to excel both on and off the field. From new equipment to upgraded facilities, your contributions are helping to enhance the overall athletic experience for our students and build a strong sense of community and school spirit.

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership and commitment to the success of our teams. Thank you for being Gold Level Sponsor, and an invaluable part of the SC family!



SC Grad Spotlight



Congratulations to 2024's
Valedictorian:

Luke Neufeldt

“I’d like to leave you with an idea that has shifted my thinking in the last few years, which is to live with your death in mind. What I mean by this is to consistently remind ourselves that our death is imminent, and could happen any moment. By doing this, the way we think about each rising day is completely different. We realize that the day the Lord has made could be our last, and that every thought, word, and deed ought to be reflective of our gratefulness for every gift God has given us.”

Class of '24 Photo





**Addison Studer
Aiden Turner
Analise Leonard
Annie Perlenfein**



**Bella Vanderhoof
Ben Eby
Blake Boshart
Brendan Vosburg**



**Caleb Santora
Caleb Steffen
Connor Ulrich
Denaé Jolly**



**Eli Smith
Ellie Greene
Ethan Zehr
Gabe Arredondo**



**Hannah DeVries
Izaak Frey
Jayden Lee
John Coiner**



**Jordan Studer
Kaiden Bogaro
Kaylyn Deskins
Keenan Hill**



**Kellen O'Malley
Kyra Enovijas
Landon Bradford
Leah Chariker**



**Maci Shaw
Mackenzi
Grosenbach
Maddy Roth
Mallory Parker**



**Max Moritz
Mia Fullbright
Michael Bourne
Miranda Scovil**



**Nate Paz
Owen Gurney
Peyton Marks
Rylan Accord**



**Ryland Howard
Taylor Vincent
Tori Peterson
Tye Garceau**



**Tyler Ragan
Uriel Aguayo
Yan Guo
Zachary James**

Alumni Spotlight:

Miss Knaupp celebrates 40 years at SC



The class of '96 is the class that made Miss Knaupp her beloved birthday quilt. They were going through a *Tale of Two Cities* in her English class, and she recalls being upset with her students because they weren't submitting their assignments. The day of her birthday, she arrived at class and no students showed up. She remembers thinking "ha ha folks, very funny..." A student ran in eventually, exclaiming Miss Knaupp, come quick!" She walked out of her classroom and was presented with her birthday quilt by her beaming, proud students. Their assignments had been placed by the wayside in lieu of getting her birthday quilt done.

Some of Miss Knaupp's favorite memories include working with the yearbook committee. She recalled how they worked "so hard, but had so much fun!" They would take mini sessions at the coast to plan the yearbook, and she remembers it always being such a blast.

Watching the new high school building get built, the outpouring of support from the community, and finally moving in to the beautiful new library was also a

highlight for Miss Knaupp. When they were moving all of the books into the new library, she created a signup for helpers to carry the books from one building to the other. By the morning moving day arrived, two young ladies were the only people who had signed up to help. Miss Knaupp recalls losing sleep the night before, she was so concerned about how they were going to get all those books moved. The Lord provides though, and more, and more, and more people joined Miss Knaupp and the two girls, until they ended up moving all those books in just 3 hours!

As we talked, Miss Knaupp busily bound new textbooks to keep them in good condition. Her 40 years of memories made for some incredible stories – rainbows over the baseball field, the miracles and ways God has provided, and friendships with colleagues just scratch the surface. She finished with "the friendships don't stop. They just keep on. So many wonderful times and special people, and lots of books mended!"

Class of 1996 members who either work or have kids attending Santiam Christian:
Michael Bittner
Rachel (Callis) Stith
Ruth (Fitzpatrick) Perkins
Dan & Patty (Corliss) Breyman
Kent & Heidi (Kenyon) Burkholder
Annie (Kennel) Hedlund
Tim Roth
Carrie (Trueax) James
Duane Shaw

Thank you for your long time service of the SC community Miss Knaupp!
You are a treasure!

Miss Knaupp is not an alumni of Santiam Christian, but has been teaching here since its beginnings.

High School Principal Note

HS Principal Mike Bittner

Wow! I can't believe that summer has come and gone already. As we look to this Fall, I'm eager to see how God works in our community this year. Year one here at SC felt like a success, but I know that as we aim to take a collective step forward in year two it's going to be an adventure. Our Spiritual Life theme this year is Anchored (based on Hebrews 6:19), and I am excited to see how He works the ideas of steadfastness, spiritual disciplines, and the hope in Jesus that they bring into our lives.

I'm also looking forward to the beginning of a year-long professional development activity that we will undertake as a whole school staff/faculty group. We will be studying how to "do" Biblical integration at a deeper level. We will be learning how to create an atmosphere in our halls and classrooms where hearts are turned to hear God's voice in every content area, so when the truth claims of the Bible are spoken, there is well-prepared fertile ground of the heart to receive it. Please pray with us as we undertake this growth opportunity.

Most of all I'm excited to see our students! As I've been talking with teachers there is a sense that this could be a significant year in the lives of our students. We are so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of what God is calling them to and we can't wait to get started!

With anticipation,



Mike Bittner



Office of Admissions

Admissions Director Raelyn Riedlinger

At a time in our culture when so many absolutes have been challenged, and definitions have been changed, private, and especially Christian schools, across the country are seeing increases in demand. Christian families are looking for an environment for their kids that is not in opposition to what they're teaching at home.

Here in the mid-Willamette Valley, we've been seeing a similar trend. Many families looking to leave the public schools, or that chose to homeschool after COVID, are now looking to SC as an option for traditional schooling, from a Christian world perspective.

The board's response to the demand has been one of common sense and extreme care for the SC community. They're committed to some growth, but in a manner that always keeps Christ and the Eagle Family in mind. Growing too fast creates strength in numbers, but often weakens the quality of what a school has to offer and the Christian focus. As a board charged with protecting us, they are allowing growth, but in a measured way, that doesn't allow us to lose our identity and purpose.

The 2024-25 admissions season is proving to be one of unique balance. We don't have long waiting lists, but have filled, or are close to filling most levels. We had a number of openings for second and sixth grade, but otherwise were pretty close to capacity. We have waiting lists for four year old preschool, fourth, fifth and eighth grades. Everywhere else, God has brought us balance. When COVID closed schools in March of 2020, our administrators and admissions department met and prayed that God would safeguard the future of Santiam Christian Schools. We asked that He would continue His miraculous provision. This year's admissions season feels like proof that He is still answering our prayers.

SC policies have always asked parents to be engaged and involved in a local church. We've confirmed our commitment to this policy by asking our Eagle Family's pastors to respond to a church reference for each family annually. While church attendance does not guarantee the character of a family, the church reference, along with a strong family interview, is the best way we know to ensure that our Eagle parents match our mission of partnering with Christian parents. It says that they are growing and developing in their own walk with Jesus, like they want for their kids. We've had amazing conversations with families, helping them to find a faith family that supports and loves them in a way that we as a school are unable to do.



Special Thanks To:

Contributors: Steve Jagich, Al Stefan, Abi Janssen, Mike Bittner, Raelyn Riedlinger, Luke Neufeldt, Esther Knaupp, Kathy Hadley, Tyler Ferguson, Kami Hettwer, Steve Reed

Design: Abi Janssen

Photos: Sami Beam, Steve Jagich, Abi Janssen, Tina Longballa, Kathy Hadley, Framework Studio Architecture LLC



Did you know many of our founders and alumni families still donate to our school? They lived the history and know that staff and parents continue to make financial sacrifices today. We know this has always been and will continue to be God's school. Please prayerfully consider giving to our general or scholarship fund at:

SANTIAMCHRISTIAN.ORG/DEVELOPMENT