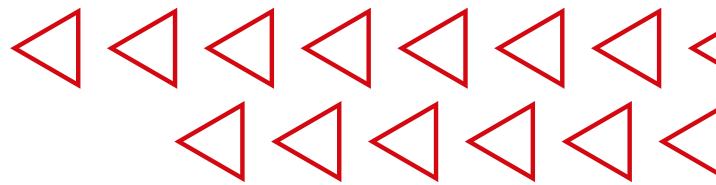




# THE SOCIAL HERD



## OUR MISSION

Bay Area Christian School exists to provide quality, Kingdom education to the next generation, empowering them to make disciples of Jesus at home, in society, and through the church.





**Your Admin Team**

Robyn Stearns - Admissions Assistant  
Deena Heidemann - Activities Director  
Les Rainey - Head of School  
Denys Watson - Admissions Director  
Vicki Fletcher - Assistant to Head of School

A message from our Head of School,

# LES RAINEY

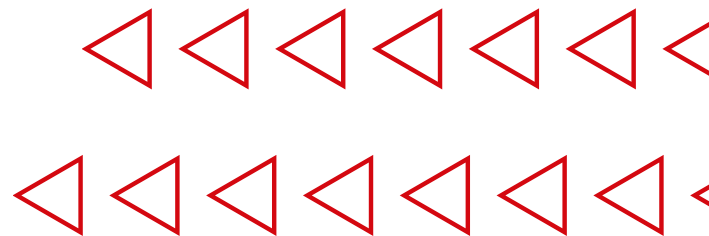
As I reflect on this passage of Scripture, two key traits stand out to me: unity and humility. These qualities complement each other and reflect the Christ-like character that should guide how we live both individually and as a community. This season is a special time as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Jesus demonstrated perfect humility throughout His time on Earth, beginning with His birth. The King of Kings did not come seeking comfort, wealth, privilege, or fame. Instead, He revealed His love for us by embracing a calling to suffer more deeply than we can imagine. As believers, may we share in the same love and joy, living in obedience and passion for the things that matter most to Jesus. When we embody these values collectively as a community of believers, we experience encouragement and joy. I pray that you and your family have a blessed Christmas season. Please know that you are deeply loved and appreciated. It's a great day to be a Bronco!

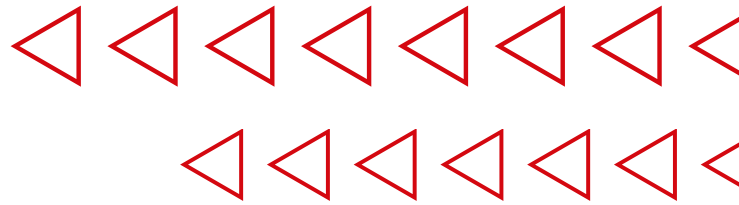
### This month's theme: Share

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, - Philippians 2:1-5

### Mark your calendar

- 12/17-20** Semester Exams
- 12/20** Elementary Christmas Parties/Noon Dismissal
- 12/23-1/3** Offices closed
- 1/6** Teacher Workday
- 1/7** Classes Resume





A message from our Admissions Director,  
**DENYS WATSON**

We are currently accepting Kindergarten applications for the 2025-2026 school year!

On January 1, 2025, BACS will begin accepting applications for all grades Kindergarten through 12th. To apply, create an application [online](#).

You can also [schedule a tour](#) for grades K-12.

Tours are available Monday through Friday at 9:00am, 11:00am & 1:30pm. Please allow 45 minutes to one hour for elementary tours and 1.5 hours for secondary tours.







**Your ELA Team**

Laura Bardwell - Receptionist  
 Magdalena Van Hook - K3 Teacher/Assistant Director  
 Stacie Holt - K3 Teacher/Assistant Director  
 Anita Pierce - Director  
 Amanda Baldwin - Registrar/Assistant Director

A message from our Early Learning Academy Director,  
**ANITA PIERCE**

Philippians 2:1-5 is a reminder to put our focus on Jesus and share His love with others. One of my favorite Christmas Songs is "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" which brings focus to the rest we need during this chaotic time of year filled with hustle and bustle.

God rest ye merry gentlemen  
 Let nothing you dismay  
 For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
 Was born on Christmas Day  
 To save us all from Satan's pow'r  
 When we were gone astray  
 O tidings of comfort and joy  
 Comfort and joy  
 O tidings of comfort and joy

Be humble and kind as we celebrate His birth. Put the needs of others before ourselves. How can we help others? How can we share Christ's love with others? My prayer is that you will be able to rest and focus on the gift of God's love for us during the Christmas season. You are loved and prayed for.

Merry Christmas!

**Mark Your Calendar**

Christmas Dress- Up Days

**12/16** Candy Cane Clothing

**12/17** PJ Day

**12/18** Wear Festive Christmas Clothing

**12/19** Hat/Bow/Headband Day

**12/20** Jingle Bells / Christmas Attire

**12/18** No Chapel, Christmas Parties (PT classes)

**12/19** Christmas Party (M/W 2s, Ullrich)

**12/20** Christmas Parties (FT classes)

Noon Dismissal - PM Plus not available

**12/23-1/6** Christmas Break





## A message from our Elementary Principal, **DANA DUNCAN**

In Philippians 2:1-5, the theme of sharing is closely related to unity, humility, and selflessness within our body of believers. We should live in a manner that reflects the love and unity of Christ. Sharing emphasizes the opportunity to demonstrate generosity, partnership, and support among believers. Christ calls us to live in community and to serve one another. We can show the love of Christ by sharing in both material and spiritual ways. We can show generosity in giving to one another by material gifts, putting others' interests before our own, being selfless, sharing mutual joy and encouragement, sharing one another's burdens, and rejoicing with one another in prayer and worship. By joining together in sharing the gospel mission, we can share the importance of mutual care, generosity, and unity in our faith. Show Christ's love this season by sharing both materially and spiritually. Let us all boldly demonstrate that Jesus is the reason for the season!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

- 12/16** Christmas Pajamas Day
- 12/17** Candy Cane/Jingle Bell Day
- 12/18** Nutcracker Theme Day
- 12/19** Christmas Socks or Slippers Day
- 12/20** Christmas Shirt/Hat Day, Christmas Parties, Noon Dismissal





**Your Junior High Team**

Stephanie Van Eps - Administrative Assistant  
Jared Fuqua - Principal



Christ shared His time and love with humanity on earth to fulfill the Redemption story for our eternal good.

### Mark Your Calendar

12/16 Christmas Sweater Day

12/17-20 Exam Week

12/21-1/6 Christmas Break

1/7 Second Semester Begins

A message from our Junior High Principal,

## JARED FUQUA

In this busy time of year, we are pulled in all different directions. The one thing we feel like we do not have is time. We have to split our time for all of the events, parties, dinners, and shopping that comes with the Christmas season. My high school football and baseball coach, Coach Pennyne, often brought up how important time is. "Time is man's most precious commodity," he would say. Another one of my favorite "Pennyisms" was that at the end of our life, we should not be able to look back and say "coulda, shoulda, woulda." His challenge to us was to always use our time wisely and live life to the fullest while glorifying God. When I look back at those post-practice speeches, I see how Coach Pennyne was being generous with his time and glorifying God in the process. He was using his time to influence young men to make an impact on future generations. He was instilling a biblical worldview and pointing us to Christ.

My prayer is that all of us will be able to rise above the fray that can come with Christmas and see where and with whom we can share our time. I pray that we will be able to set aside time to focus on Advent and share the miraculous account of Christ's birth with our children. I pray that we will be able to set aside time and share the Lord's blessings with family and loved ones at the dinner table. I pray that we will be able to share some time with our neighbors and point them to Christ in our conversations. If Christ shared His time and love with humanity on Earth to fulfill the Redemption story for our eternal good, then we are called to share time and love with those around us as well. I pray for peace, love and joy for you and your family. Merry Christmas!







**Your High School Team**  
Nancy Gadd - Academic Counselor  
Harold Payne - Principal  
Amy Lopez - Administrative Assistant  
Lisa Harkness - Receptionist/Attendance Clerk



The birth of Jesus wasn't just a quiet moment in history, it was a life altering event.

## A message from our High School Principal, **HAROLD PAYNE**

As we approach Christmas, life feels a bit like the third round of Mario Kart. The music picks up, the pace quickens, and everything becomes a little more frantic. School events, work deadlines, family gatherings, and holiday preparations swirl together, leaving little room to pause.

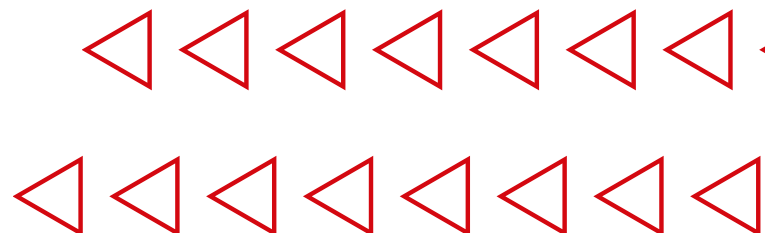
But just as every great race requires moments of strategy, this season calls for intentional pauses. Amidst the busyness, we need to carve out moments to slow down, breathe, and appreciate the time we have with those we love. More importantly, Christmas is an invitation to realign ourselves with God's truth. The birth of Jesus wasn't just a quiet moment in history, it was a life altering event meant to challenge and inspire us to live out biblical truths in a noisy world.

This year, let's allow God to use this sacred season to remind us of His purpose for our lives. May the awe of Christ's birth lead us to moments of gratitude, reflection, and growth. Even if the pace around us quickens, let's hold fast to the peace and joy that comes from celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Blessings to you and your family this holiday season!

### **Mark Your Calendar**

**12/16** Christmas Sweater Day



“ Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

A message from our Academic Counselor,

## NANCY GADD

Silent Night is a beautiful Christmas hymn. In the quiet of the night, God sent JESUS—our Redeemer, Emmanuel, Prince of Peace. December is a month filled with celebration, family, friends, and the many blessings and joys of the season. It's easy for the days to pass quickly as we prepare for the New Year. But my prayer for us all is that, in the midst of the busyness, we find quiet moments to worship in the Spirit and share God's love with others (counting others more significant than ourselves - Phil 2:3).

As we reflect on the magnitude of God's gift to the world, let us remember that it is a complete reflection of His great love for us. Every aspect of God's love is wrapped up in this gift, and it is through Jesus that we come to know the depth, the width, and the height of God's love in a deeply personal and intimate way.

May the peace and love of Christ fill your heart this season and throughout the New Year. Merry Christmas!

### Juniors

**Upcoming SAT Dates:** March 8th  
(registration deadline is Feb. 21st).

**Upcoming ACT Dates:** Feb. 8th  
(registration deadline is Jan. 3rd).

Dual credit students please send in your fall grades to receive credit for your classes as soon as possible.

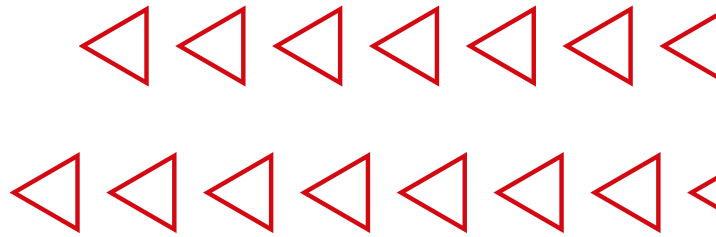
[PSAT scores](#) are available now.

### Seniors

Be sure to fill out your [FAFSA](#).







**Your Athletics Team**

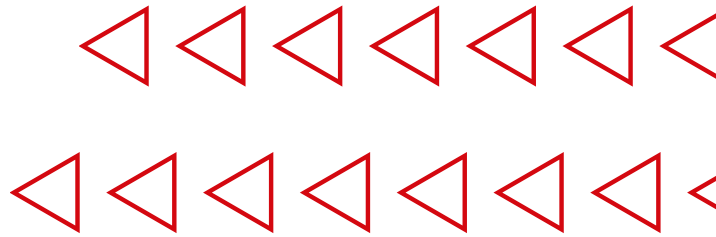
Trac Cook - Concessions Coordinator  
Jennifer Hall - Coordinator  
Tabatha Pond - Administrative Assistant  
Tom Bradley - Trainer  
Kyle Kennedy - Director (not pictured)

A message from our Athletics Director,  
**KYLE KENNEDY**

Philippians 2:1-5 really hits home when it comes to teamwork and putting others first—things that matter just as much in sports as they do in life. As athletes, we learn that real success doesn't come from just personal wins but from working together with others. This passage reminds us to check our own motivations, to set aside any selfish goals, and to put our teammates' needs first. It challenges us to support the team, whether that's through encouraging words, making sacrifices, or stepping up when needed. Just like Christ showed humility and love for others, we're called to do the same on our athletic journey, not just focusing on our own achievements, but on lifting up everyone around us. When we live this way, we help build a team culture of unity, kindness, and respect, where everyone grows and succeeds together.



# Sports News



## Girls Basketball

The varsity girls' basketball team will travel to St. Agnes Academy on December 13th for an away game. They will also compete in the Legacy Prep Tournament from December 19th-21st over Christmas break, before kicking off district play in January.

## Boys Basketball

The varsity boys' basketball team will participate in a tournament at O'Connell High School from December 12th-14th, followed by a game against East Bernard High School on December 19th, just before Christmas break.

## Girls Soccer

The varsity girls' soccer team will compete in their first tournament of the season from December 12th-14th at Northland Christian. They will also play at Houston Christian High School on December 20th.

## Boys Soccer

The varsity boys' soccer team will play today at Westbury Christian School and will continue their season with a game against Grace Christian Academy in January, after returning from the Christmas break.

## Wrestling

The varsity boys' wrestling team recently competed in the Maverick Stampede at Morton Ranch High School. A special congratulations to Carter Murphy, who made it to the championship match in his weight class and earned 2nd place overall in the tournament! Next, the wrestling team will compete in a round-robin tournament at Sam Houston High School on December 14th.

## Swimming

The varsity swim team will compete in their first home meet of the year on Saturday, December 14th, at 11:15 AM at Clear Springs Natatorium. After Christmas break, they will head to Cypress Fairbanks for their next meet in January.

## Spring Sports (High School)

Information about spring sports should have already been sent out by coaches. If you are interested in participating in any of the following sports or have questions, please reach out to the respective head coaches:

- Track & Field: [Bret Sewell](#)
- Tennis: [Beth Skeeter](#)
- Baseball: [Kyle Crowell](#)
- Softball: [Jason Atwell](#)
- Golf: [Trac Cook](#)





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This is Christ's heart and He will work this in us by orchestrating events that will test our true motivations.

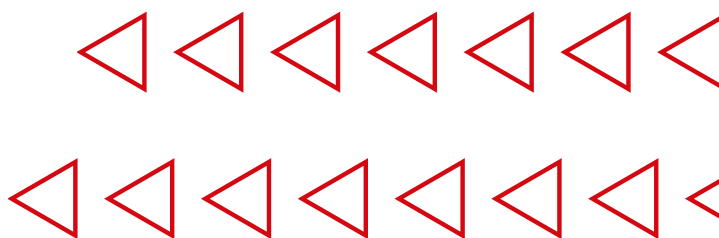
A message from our Director of Curriculum and Instruction,

## LINDA MUDGETT

The words that are highlighted or come to mind from this scripture in Philippians are humility, surrender, and honor. I like how another translation puts it: "Walk together with one harmonious purpose...in authentic humility put others first and view others as more important than yourselves. Abandon every display of selfishness. Let Christ's mindset become your motivation." This is Christ's heart and He will work this in us by orchestrating events that will test our true motivations. Even if we get ourselves into a particular situation, He works it for our good and His goal, which is having the mind of Christ.







God's design for His people is one of interconnected communities, where we are drawn closer to Him by loving and serving others.

A message from our Director of Student Support,

## MIKE AMMONS

The holiday season has arrived, and during this time, I often find myself nostalgic, reflecting on the unity and warmth portrayed in old-fashioned images of American life, like the iconic Norman Rockwell paintings. These classic scenes remind me of the beauty and importance of community—a value once deeply woven into our country's cultural fabric, especially during this season of gratitude and togetherness. Unity and community are essential to thriving societies, and our commitment to these ideals is as vital today as ever. In a world where it's easy to feel disconnected, a strong sense of community grounds us. It connects us to the people who influence our lives most—the ones we see regularly, live near, and share life's ups and downs with. Through these connections, we grow stronger together, becoming more resilient as we share each other's burdens, meet one another's needs, and celebrate life's joys side by side. It's important to recognize that this deep, communal care isn't just an American ideal—it's a Biblical truth rooted in our restoration and unification through Jesus Christ.

God's design for His people is one of interconnected communities, where we are drawn closer to Him by loving and serving others. Biblical community allows us to flourish in ways that go beyond surface-level relationships. The best way to access this kind of community is through a Bible-teaching local church. If you don't currently have a vibrant church home, now is the perfect time to find one where you and your family can experience the countless blessings of genuine Christian community. This holiday season, look for ways to connect or reconnect with people you care about and share in community. Whether it's reaching out to neighbors, strengthening friendships, enjoying family time, or engaging in church life, take this opportunity to embrace the love, care, and support that come from living in unity with others. Let's celebrate this season by reflecting on God's blessings and glorifying Him through our love for others.





**Your Performing Arts Team**

Rebecca Rodriguez - Band  
Jaime Slafka - Elementary Music  
Marianne Morrison - Fine Arts Director, Choir  
Elisabeth Hope - Orchestra  
Glen Gray - Band (not pictured)

A message from our Fine Arts Director,  
**MARIANNE MORRISON**

Christmas is a time to reflect on the humble nature of Christ's birth. The Creator of the universe chose to enter the world not as a powerful king, but as a vulnerable child born in a stable. This act of humility challenges us to reconsider how we live our lives—reminding us that greatness is not measured by wealth, status, or power, but by our willingness to serve and love others. Just as Christ humbled Himself to walk among us, we are called to put aside pride and embrace a spirit of compassion, kindness, and selflessness. This season, let us follow His example by serving others, especially those who are in need. In doing so, we find that true joy comes not from what we receive, but in how we worship and honor Christ with our lives.

**Sounds of the Season**

Did you miss our Christmas Fine Arts Night? Watch it [here!](#)



The Creator of the universe chose to enter the world not as a powerful king, but as a vulnerable child born in a stable.





“

Attendance is very important, but so is health.

A message from our nurses,

## BRIANNA ARGHIROPOL & DARCY GONZALEZ

One of our main goals as nurses at BACS is keeping your student healthy. As Christmas approaches and excitement is on the rise, the incidence of illness is on the rise as well. Illnesses common to this time of year include flu, strep throat, pneumonia, stomach bug and multiple other viruses, all of which can be contagious. We want to do our part to help minimize illness as much as possible. To help accomplish this, we need your help. See the next page for a few things you can do and encourage your child to do to help.

Attendance is very important, but so is health. If your student's temperature is elevated and/or they are not feeling well, or if you feel that your child may be ill, please keep them at home. Keeping them at home until they are fever-free without medication is the most important way to prevent the spread of illness in school.

We appreciate your support in these procedures. Should your child come down with any of the above illnesses please email us at [nurse@bacschool.org](mailto:nurse@bacschool.org).

Keeping our Broncos healthy and strong,  
Brianna Arghiropol APRN, FNP-C & Darcy Gonzalez RN

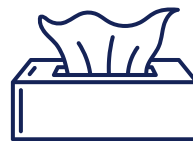




# Tips to help keep our Broncos healthy this winter season



**1** Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. The CDC recommends washing for at least 20 seconds. Make sure your hands are completely dry after washing as well.



**2** Practice respiratory etiquette by covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.



**3** Keep your hands away from your face. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth; germs are spread this way.



**4** Do not share drinks or eating utensils. This is another way germs are spread.



**5** Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Possible signs of fever include: if the person feels very warm, has a flushed appearance, or is sweating or shivering. Other signs and symptoms of flu could be: a cough and/or sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, chills, fatigue, nausea and vomiting (most common in children), and/or body aches. Keep in mind that not all cases of the flu will exhibit the same symptoms.

**6** If your child has flu or flu-like illness, keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (see above). This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medications (any medicine that contains ibuprofen or acetaminophen).



# BRONCO ANNOUNCEMENTS



Are you planning on attending or helping with an elementary Christmas party? Please [register for a name badge](#) by Monday, December 16 at 4:00 pm. Your badge will be ready and waiting for you on Friday, December 20.



Early dismissal on Friday, December 20 for ELA and Elementary is at noon. Secondary will dismiss when they finish their last exam.



Extended Care will NOT be available on Friday, December 20. Everyone leaves campus at noon.



The BACS and Early Learning Academy campus will be closed December 23 - January 6 for the Christmas Holidays. Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.



On January 1, 2025 we will be [accepting online applications](#) for new students for the 2025-26 school year for all grades. Tell your friends and family!



Mark your calendar for the 7th annual Bronco Backers Golf Tournament to be held on Monday, April 7, 2025. Use the QR code for more information.



Bay Area Church offers Christmas Eve services on Tuesday, December 24th. We hope you make plans to join us!

