

SOAR!

THE SECOND DIMENSION: MORAL TRAINING

We pick up the story as the mother enters the classroom for a meeting with the teacher and the guidance counselor. Her son has been stealing money from classmates and she

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...expressed her dismay at her son's behavior and said that she was determined to see that it never happens again. She then asked how they could work together to give him the message that stealing is wrong.

The teacher and counselor greeted this question with a moment of awkward silence. Then the counselor said something along the lines of, "Well, it's important for you to know that we are speaking with your son about this incident, and we are not referring to it as 'stealing.' We don't want to give your child a self-image as a thief, which could only stigmatize him. Instead, we are calling it 'uncooperative behavior,' and we have explained to him that he will never be popular if he continues to act this way. This approach reflects our professional judgment and we recommend that you take the same approach and support our efforts."

The mother said when she tried to discuss the matter with her son, he just "blew it off" by saying, "Don't worry Mom, the school is handling this..."

We explored together in the first article in this series that one of the significant blessings children receive from attending a Christian school is a perspective on academic work that keeps the Lord in His rightful place. In this issue, I'd like to focus on a second blessing that students receive from Christian schooling: clear, unambiguous moral and character instruction and training.

We'll begin with the foundation: In the Christian school, the basis for moral education is the Bible. The Bible teaches moral standards that are transcendent—applicable to all people in all cultures all the time. Such directives as "You shall not murder," or "You shall not steal," or "I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" or "In everything, do to others what you would have them do to you" or "Marriage shall be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure" are not "suggestions" for us to follow—they are directives from a loving God who designed and made the universe in which we live, and designed the basic spiritual and social structures in which we were made to function. These instructions from God are clear and require only one thing in return: obedience. They do not require debate or analysis, just obedience.

The trick, of course, is that obedience is not necessarily easy. We have a human nature that likes its own way, and its own standard of measurement. We're weak in the area of morality. To compound our weakness, we like to rationalize and make excuses. It's not "stealing"—it's "uncooperative behavior." In fact we are so weak in this area that we are completely incapable. We can't earn God's favor or forgiveness by keeping the rules (Galatians 3:11), but only by receiving His favor and forgiveness as His gift to us. (Ephesians 2:9) When we have done wrong, we can only be restored to spiritual health by confessing and turning away from our wrongdoing. (1 John 1:9)

So why is it important to call stealing "stealing"? Rule-keeping does not lead to abundant life—only faith in Jesus Christ does that—but neither does rule-breaking. Rule-breaking—choosing to act in opposition to God's moral law—leads to confusion; leads away from life; leads away from God.

This is why the character training and moral instruction children receive at a Christian school is so vitally important. Teaching moral responsibility without a personal, humble faith in Christ produces at (best) self-righteous moralists who perhaps keep the letter of the law, but do not know the Spirit of it. Not teaching moral responsibility at all, or wrapping it in ambiguous, self-serving terms like "uncooperative behavior" that will lead to being "unpopular," trivializes morality and simply leads to personal, and eventual, cultural, disaster.

The Christian school is perfectly positioned to teach the importance of character and moral responsibility from an entirely holistic point of view. We are redeemed and given hope not by rule-keeping, but by grace through Jesus Christ. We then learn and practice morally responsible living out of 1) Our gratitude for our redemption and subsequent desire to please God by obeying Him. 2) Our desire to treat others as kindly and thoughtfully and graciously as we have been treated by God, 3) an acknowledgement that God's

Thomas, William (2010) *The Bridge to Character: Educational Leadership*, Volume 67, Number 5, 36-39. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, www.aascd.org
 *Exodus 20:13, 15 (1984) *Holy Bible: New International Version*, Colorado Springs: International Bible Society.
 *Matthew 9:44
 *Matthew 7:12
 *1John 1:9

THE SECOND DIMENSION: MORAL TRAINING CONTINUED...

standards are right, and 4) our growing confidence and trust that God's moral boundaries are in fact not restrictive but liberating, not oppressive but rather freeing. (see Psalm 16, especially verses 5 and 6)

Not only can the Christian school teach a comprehensive and biblical perspective on morality, but teachers within the school can engage with moral issues throughout the day, in all the subject areas, and in all the extra- and co-curricular activities that go on as well. Moral training is not relegated to the sidelines, but rather is continuously an element of conversation and instruction throughout each day of the school week.

Finally, the Christian school can be an example of genuine community in the area of moral instruction and training. The children and staff in the Christian schools are typical of Christians (and people generally) everywhere. Tempers are sometimes hot, temptation sometimes prevails, ugly words sometimes get said, and wrong responses are sometimes evident. The Christian school can be a place where students and teachers learn firsthand to forgive, to help one another to encourage, to be patient, to demonstrate compassion. Doing so, not in ambiguous ways that weaken the importance of right living, but in mutually affirming ways that acknowledge the frailty of the human condition and the constant and common need to walk in Christ's grace.

Clear, unambiguous moral teaching yields many benefits. Children with clear moral teaching develop a healthier sense of self and others, are positioned to avoid the personal disasters that accompany immoral behavior, and, coupled with faith in Christ, are prepared to have an eternal impact in their own families and in the culture around them. Children enrolled in Christian schools are blessed by a commitment to instruction about faith in Christ, clear moral teaching, accountability for their actions, and an affirming community that seeks to help each one work out their morality and compassion in an environment that accepts humanity but does not excuse.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY 2009

Over 200 grandparents, friends, students, staff, and parents participated in DPCA's annual Grandparents' Day held on November 19, 2009. This year the meal, activities, and decorations reflected the Academy's 2009-2010 school theme: Children of the King. Called Into the World to Serve.

Grandparents and special guests were invited to visit classrooms, go on school tours, attend a program, and partake in a lunch featuring roasted chicken, beef, and fish. Prior to lunch, everyone gathered in the gymnasium to construct a craft. Young and old formed groups and worked together to make a

New Year's Day greeting card for active duty service personnel. The cards were included in care packages mailed out by the First Lutheran Church of Salida. Over 60 homemade, personalized cards were assembled! Major Mackenzie R. Schuler who is stationed in Afghanistan, wrote: "...I loved the creative and inspirational cards enclosed in the packages from the students of Darren Patterson Christian Academy. I hung them up on our bulletin board for others to read and enjoy."

Skits, songs, and readings by each class provided the program entertainment. Towards the end of the lunch and to conclude the days activities, two unsuspecting but good-natured grandpas got on stage to participate in DPCA's version of "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader."

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Beta Club collected nearly 1,000 pounds of food for the Arkansas Valley Mission during their annual food drive. The food was collected through a week long event called Food Wars in which classes compete against each other to see who can donate the most food. Winners this year were Mrs. Kinane's First and Second Grade class in the elementary division, and the Juniors and Seniors in the upper division.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DPCA's annual Christmas Program was presented on Thursday evening, December 17, under the direction of Mr. Randy Barnes.

Darren Patterson Christian Academy Presents

Twas the Moon of Winter Time

All	O Santiamo
K	Jingle Bells
K, 1st and 2nd	O Christmas Tree
Wind/ String Ensemble	
K, 1st and 2nd	We Wish You a Merry Christmas
1st and 2nd	Santa Claus is Coming to Town
3rd and 4th	Christmas in the Rockies
	Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
	Jolly Old St. Nicholas
Wind/ String Ensemble	Silent Night
5th and 6th	Brightest and Best
	Love Came Down at Christmas
5th-8th	The Hallel Carol
	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Jessie Johnston, Kiernan	Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree
Martin, Summer Martin	
7th and 8th	Velvet Nocturnal
All	Away in a Manger

Seven students from DPCA joined a group of courageous students from the area to participate in a Spelling Bee. The Bee is held annually and is sponsored by Avery Patson's Elementary School (Buena Vista). This year's competition was held on Thursday, February 25th.

In the 3rd grade class, Tori McManamay and Shelby Storms competed into the final round vying for first place honors. Tori eventually won out by correctly spelling the words "sentences" and "embarrass," giving her the first place trophy and Shelby the second place trophy. Heather Burdges (3rd Grade) was eliminated towards the end competition on the word "assume," and received the 3rd grade trophy.

BOOSTER CLUB PLUS!

Please Join Us In Thanking Our Booster Club Plus Members

- KATHY AKERS Eagle Member
 BK PRANGER MASONRY Gold Member
 CABIN CREEK CONTRACTORS Silver Member
 CLYDE'S AUTO BODY Bronze Member
 COLLEGIATE PEAKS BANK Gold Member
 COLORADO EAST BANK & TRUST Bronze Member
 HIGH COUNTRY BANK Bronze Member
 MARY KAY INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT, DIXIE HARDER Eagle Member
 MJ AUTO REPAIR Eagle Member
 JUDY POLENK Eagle Member
 S.J. POLENK Silver Member
 DAVE AND MARGARET SLAVISH Gold Member
 VICTOR'S GOURMET FOODS Eagle Member
- 11,000+ more
 \$500-\$999
 Silver Member
 \$150-\$499
 Bronze Member
 \$100-\$149
 Eagle Member
 \$75-\$99

SPELLING BEE



Back (L-R): Caleb Deschambeault (1st Grade), Maggie Hollenbeck (2nd Grade), Heather Burdges (3rd Grade), Front (L-R): Scott McMurry (2nd Grade), Tori McManamay (3rd Grade), Mya Baldwin (2nd Grade), and Shelby Storms (3rd Grade)

SIX (EASY!) WAYS TO SUPPORT DPCA!

- RECYCLE:** Bring in used ink jet cartridges and cell phones. (No laser or toner cartridges please!)
- CLIP AND SAVE:** Box Tops for Education and Soup Labels.
- DONATE ON-LINE:** It's quick and easy! Go to our website at www.dpcaweb.org. Click the Support DPCA button and then follow the Donating to DPCA link.
- BECOME A BOOSTER CLUB PLUS MEMBER:** Information available at our website: www.dpcaweb.org. Click the Support DPCA button and then follow the Booster Club Plus link, or contact the Development Office. Phone: 719-395-0346 Ext. 18 Email: development@dpcaweb.org
- USE GOODSEARCH AND GOODSHOP WHEN YOU'RE ONLINE:** It costs you NOTHING extra! Go to www.goodsearch.com. Type Darren Patterson Christian Academy in the "WHO DO YOU GOOD SEARCH FOR?" box. Click the VERIFY button. Use the Good Search box to search on-line, or the Good Shop button to buy from over 600 stores.
- MAIL A DONATION:** Just use the enclosed response card and envelope!

2ND QUARTER HONOR ROLL

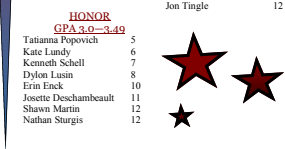
PRINCIPAL'S - GPA 4.0	TEACHER'S GPA 3.50-3.99
Maggie Hollenbeck 3	Anna Bearss 3
Tori McManamay 3	Sheridan Harder 3
Laura Pelino 3	Drew Martin 3
Shelby Storms 3	Dean Mason 3
Michelle Pelino 4	Heather Burdges 5
Nathan Van Deel 5	Nathan Van Deel 5
Phoebe Powell 6	Katelyn Davis 5
Jase Staudt 6	Sydney McManamay 5
Rebecca Pranger 7	Keely Campbell 5
Meach Ritschard 9	Phoebe Powell 6
Nick Pascarelli 10	Jase Staudt 7
Tanner Brasser 11	Madeline Green 7
Nicole Pranger 11	Rebecca Pranger 7
Nathan Ritschard 12	Meach Ritschard 9

3RD QUARTER HONOR ROLL

PRINCIPAL'S - GPA 4.0	TEACHER'S GPA 3.50-3.99
Sheridan Harder 3	Anna Bearss 3
Maggie Hollenbeck 3	Dean Mason 3
Drew Martin 3	Tori McManamay 3
Laura Pelino 3	Shelby Storms 3
Michelle Pelino 4	Marshall Swamy 3
Sydney McManamay 5	Adam Velasquez 3
Nathan Ritschard 5	Grace Mei Parker 4
Nathan Van Deel 5	Heather Burdges 5
Katelyn Davis 5	Suzanna Deschambeault 8
Todd Beebe 6	Madeline Green 10
Keely Campbell 6	Nick Pascarelli 10
Phoebe Powell 6	Tanner Brasser 11
Jase Staudt 7	Nicole Pranger 11
Madeline Green 7	Aaron Green 12
Rebecca Pranger 7	Nathan Ritschard 12
Meach Ritschard 9	Jon Tingle 12

HONOR GPA 3.0-3.49

Reid Shawhan 3	Adam Velasquez 3
Marshall Swamy 3	Jon Tingle 6
Chase Macnab 5	
Shelby Phillips 5	
Meach Hollenbeck 7	
Kenneth Schell 7	
Eran Enck 10	
Ethan Ritschard 10	
Aaron Green 12	
Shawn Martin 12	
Nathan Sturges 12	



BASKETBALL

SENIOR ATHLETES HONORED



The three seniors that played on the DPCA Boys' Basketball team this season were recognized at the last home game held on Thursday, February 25, 2010.

The seniors were thanked for their exceptional leadership, hard work, and conduct that exemplified Christ-likeness.

Pictured L-R: Jon & Skeet Tingle, Juan and Vern Velasquez, and Nathan and Jani Ritschard.

AWARDS DINNER HELD

A dinner to honor the 2009-2010 basketball teams was held on Thursday, March 11 in the DPCA cafeteria.

Pictured at right are the members of the junior high girls and junior high boys basketball teams that received the most improved player (MIP) and most valuable player (MVP) awards.

Below are the award recipients for the boys varsity team; and below right, the athletes who received the Christian Athlete of the Year award.



Senior MVP: MIP: Joel Parker, MIP: Kiernan Martin, MVP: Nathan Ritschard, MVP: Nathan Ritschard, MVP: Nathan Ritschard



Tanner Brasser, MIP; Jon Tingle, MVP, All-Conference, and All-Tournament; Ethan Ritschard, All-Conference and All-Tournament; and Nathan Ritschard, All-Conference, All-Tournament, and Tournament MVP.

The 2009-2010 Christian Athlete of the Year award was presented to Nathan Ritschard. Presented by Nathan Ritschard, Nathan Ritschard, and Nathan Ritschard.

WRAP UP!

FIRST AT STATE CAPS OFF GREAT SEASON

The boys basketball team won "every award possible" at the Front Range Christian Athletic Association Division B boys' state basketball tournament held Saturday, February 27, at Colorado Christian University. Undefined in conference play, the Eagles went to the tournament ready for a challenging game against the Denver Eagles. Having beaten the Denver Eagles during the regular season, the DPCA team was hopeful for a victory but prepared for a strong challenge going into the game. Eagles and Eagles faced off in fast-paced, exciting play that saw DPCA down by four at halftime. DPCA came on strong in the beginning of the 3rd quarter to take the lead. The game stayed neck and neck, and as the clock ran out on regulation play, the score stood at 53-53. Both teams came into overtime playing aggressive basketball, but DPCA dominated the overtime period and gained a 62-53 victory over the Denver Eagles to end the championship.

Jon Tingle, senior center, was high scorer for DPCA with 22 points, followed by senior guard Nathan Ritschard with 20 and sophomore point guard Ethan Ritschard with 14. Starting lineup for DPCA also included Nick Pascarelli and Tanner Brasser in the forward positions. Coaches Tom Navarrette and Ben Little led the team through their winning season and state title.

During the awards ceremony following the game, DPCA players were recognized for outstanding season and tournament play. "The boys received every award possible at the tournament," DPCA Athletic Director Ben Little noted. "They got their team trophies as conference champs and tournament champs, and won the FRCAA Team Sportsmanship trophy this year." Christian Athlete of the Year award recipient, Nathan Ritschard, was named MVP. "They got their team trophies as conference champs and tournament champs, and won the FRCAA Team Sportsmanship trophy this year." Christian Athlete of the Year award recipient, Nathan Ritschard, was named MVP. "They got their team trophies as conference champs and tournament champs, and won the FRCAA Team Sportsmanship trophy this year." Christian Athlete of the Year award recipient, Nathan Ritschard, was named MVP.

The Front Range Christian Athletic Association organizes athletics for Christian schools in Colorado, most of which are located along the Front Range Corridor. Two Divisions, A and B, make up the Association. Schools affiliated with the Association can field teams in CHSAA-sponsored events, FRCAA-sponsored events, or both, depending on school size and number of teams. DPCA is the smallest high school in the FRCAA and plays in Division B.

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JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAMS



Kenneth Schell, Matthew Ruitter, Joel Parker, Coach Navarrette, Dylan Lusin, Mitch Hollenbeck, Lukas Ozmen, and Jase Staudt. Not Pictured: Antonio Navarrete & Josh Yates.

The DPCA School Board would like to commend all of the 2009-2010 athletic teams for their excellent play and their consistent display of fine Christian character and sportsmanship. We are very proud of all the athletes and coaches. Congratulations!