



# The EAGLE CRY

from  
DECATUR HERITAGE  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
2008-2009

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 5

MARCH - APRIL 2009

## Our Leadership

Mr. Scott Mayo	Headmaster
Mr. Shawn Yates	K-8 Principal
Mr. Michael Holiday	Upper School Assistant Principal
Mr. Steve Atchley	Athletic Director & Baseball Coach
Mrs. Scarlet Bolan	Food Service Director
Mrs. Jennifer Fite	Chief Financial Officer
Mrs. Melissa Ross	Guidance Counselor
Mrs. Tammy Stutts	Assistant Preschool Director
Mrs. Shawn Wallace	Preschool Director

## Board of Trustees

Mr. Greg Stephenson, Chairman

Mrs. Blythe Bowman	Mrs. Lyn Cook
Mr. Dan Hicks	Mr. Neal Holland
Dr. Vernon Hurst	Mr. Calvin McBride
Mr. Stratton Orr	Dr. Mitch Schuster
Mr. Skip Thompson	

## Faculty and Staff

Mrs. Fanny Adams	Librarian
Mrs. Paula Armstrong	Math, PE, JV Volleyball & Basketball Coach
Mrs. Stephanie Bonner	Preschool Staff
Mrs. Glenda Briley	Lower School Music Teacher
Miss Leslie Brown	Science Teacher
Mrs. Libby Brown	Special Projects Coordinator
Mrs. Amy Calame	2nd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Connie Cambron	Math Teacher
Mrs. Kelly Cimino	English & Logic Teacher
Mr. John Cochran	History Teacher & Girls Basketball Coach
Mrs. Kathy Coffey	1st Grade Teacher
Mrs. Tina Cooper	Athletic Assistant
Mrs. Debbie Crews	3rd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Susan Crites	Lower School Secretary
Mrs. Alfredia Fuqua	Preschool Staff
Mrs. Sabrina Halbrooks	Lower School Computer Teacher
Mrs. Teresa Hall	Extended Care
Mrs. Jame Hendriks	K4 Teacher
Mrs. Yvonne Holiday	PE, Yearbook & Volleyball Coach
Mrs. Linda Holland	English Teacher
Mrs. Sandra Howard	Math & Science Teacher
Mrs. Laurie Hurt	Lower School Aide
Mrs. Carole Janorschke	Upper School Secretary
Mrs. Miriam Kinworthy	5th & 6th Grade Teacher
Mr. John Knight	Lower School PE & Varsity Basketball Coach
Mrs. Tammy Legg	Extended Care
Mrs. Amy Little	Health Room
Mrs. Donna Mayo	Financial Secretary
Mrs. Mary Gail Olinger	Spanish Teacher
Mrs. Donna Oliver	Science & Math Teacher
Mrs. Sandy Pasqualotto	K5 Teacher
Mr. Ty Patterson	Bible Teacher
Mrs. Kim Reeves	Math Teacher
Mrs. Leah Reid	English Teacher
Mrs. Jo Sain	Cafeteria Staff
Mrs. Heather Sasser	Financial Assistant
Mrs. Cathy Schmid	4th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Melissa Simpson	Cafeteria Staff
Mrs. Brenda Smith	3rd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Sabrina Smith	Preschool Staff
Mrs. Sandy Stephenson	5th & 6th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Angie Teichmiller	English & History Teacher
Mrs. Amy Tubbs	Lower School Art & Writing Teacher
Mrs. Laura Tucker	Art Teacher
Mrs. Ginger Ward	Cheerleading & K5 Teacher
Mrs. Peggy Webb	5th & 6th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Amanda Williams	Preschool Staff
Mrs. Deborah Woods	4th Grade Teacher
Mrs. Barbara Wright	Computer Teacher

## JUSTIFYING OUR EXISTENCE

### Decatur Heritage, the Economy, and the Future

I am taking a break from my planned progression of articles giving reasons for and the benefits of a Decatur Heritage education. What was a rising wave for our last issue has turned into a flood tide of pessimistic economic news. As a business, we are not immune to those factors. As a business committed to operating on principles grounded on faith in a sovereign, loving God, we are guided to be wise, obedient, and patient while trusting God for the end results. Specifically, we have made several strategic decisions and are carefully monitoring other areas of our business to ensure continued fidelity to our calling.

On a positive note (always a good place to start), pledges and contributions toward our capital campaign, **Building a New Heritage**, continue to flow in. In fact, we recently received a new (and unexpected) donation of \$400,000. Although we have several more significant gifts in the works, this last gift takes us to the \$7 million level. As we look back three years ago to an initial feasibility study prediction of \$2 million, we are in awe at the way God has worked in the hearts and minds of our friends and families. Thank you for being open to His leading, even in tough economic times!

Our new campus construction is moving along at a rapid pace when they are able to work. Between a late start (mainly due to the change in the scope of the project) and the weather playing catch-up for two years worth of drought, we are running a little behind our original schedule. Within the next month, we should have a much better idea of the exact completion date and will use that to set our school calendar for next year. Regardless of the move-in date, we are so excited about the operational possibilities

at our new campus – opportunity for growth in enrollment, enhanced safety and security, and new tools for teaching. Please continue to pray for the construction process.



Our greatest concern on the operational front is the potential negative impact on enrollment that an extended economic downturn could produce. We have taken several measures to minimize that risk. Some of those measures, such as the new marketing campaign and the Wonderful Wednesdays open houses, have been fun. Others have been more sobering, such as the decision to move only the K5-12th grades to the new campus and the decision to freeze tuition rates for the upcoming school year. All of these decisions were bathed in prayer, debated, and made with the mindset that we needed to put Decatur Heritage Christian Academy in as solid a position as possible to both weather the current economy while being poised to take advantage of the eventual rebound. In the midst of that, we were equally concerned to continue to provide excellence in Christian education to our current families. Your prayers, your (early) re-enrollment, your positive word-of-mouth to your friends, and your input are all coveted at this time. The leadership of the school realizes that we exist and thrive based only on God's gracious provision for us. As that provision flows to us through the lives of our faculty, students, parents, and friends, we are truly thankful, regardless of the economic news.

*Scott Mayo*

# JUSTIFYING OUR EXISTENCE

## NEWS FROM THE FINANCE OFFICE

If you have used FACTS in the past to pay tuition and plan to use this method for the upcoming school year, please see Jennifer Fite to sign a new contract. You may visit the finance office anytime during school hours.

Applications for financial aid for the 2009-2010 school year are available in the finance office. Applications will be taken after your student has registered for the 2009-2010 school year. Applicants are required to apply for assistance each school year.

## WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

Decatur Heritage is hosting Wonderful Wednesdays each week to provide an opportunity for interested parties to drop by the school at a time that is convenient for them. Mr. Mayo or Mr. Yates will be available to meet with them personally to answer any questions they may have and to give them a tour of the campus. This is an excellent opportunity for people to see the school in action. Spread the word!!!

## 2009-2010 RE-ENROLLMENT

Re-enrollment packages were sent home with your youngest student on Monday, February 23. Please complete all the forms in detail, attach the registration fee and return to school at your earliest convenience. Tuition accounts must be current in order to re-enroll for next school year.

## 2009-2010 OPEN ENROLLMENT

Enrollment opens to the public Monday, March 23. Spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors.



**THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!**

**ANNUAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS**

**\$35,582.45**



"There are some fish that cannot be caught. It's not that they are faster or stronger than other fish, they're just touched by something extra."

So begins the movie 'Big Fish' from 2003. If you have not seen this film, it is about a son coming to terms with his father's final days. The son, a grounded young man, desires straight answers and is frustrated by the feeling that all he has ever received from his father were improbable stories, exaggerations, and bald-faced lies.

Russ Ramsey, pastor of Oak Hills Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, recently recounted a question that he received regarding what he hoped people would say about his life when he is gone from this world. As he gave his immediate response with relation to his profession, his spouse, and his children, he continued to ruminate on this further. How will the true answers to that question become visible?

Pastor Ramsey states, "These are the days when the stories people will tell about me after I'm gone are being lived out. And they stack, one upon another, to tell a bigger story in relief – one that will take many a voice to tell well and true. Some will tell more about what I withheld, others about what I gave. I suspect we're fools if we think there will be one moment that will define our lives. Or one success. Or even one failure. I guess it is possible to have defining moments, but even still it will be the rest of our lives that will provide the context for understanding."

The legacy we leave is so much more than one defining moment. There will be things remembered more vividly than others, but the heritage that we provide for our children and their children goes beyond and builds on every day that we are here.



I consistently recount to folks interested in our school that we are not perfect. You knew that when you picked up this newsletter today. But what I desire is that we will continually lean on and follow the guiding of God's Spirit in all that we do. It is God that works all things to His glory, even when we cannot begin to see how or why.

As for the movie 'Big Fish,' it has one of the most emotionally moving endings to a film that I have seen. The truth is finally told, as it will be for us all. While we near the ending of this phase of our existence as a school, preparing to begin the next chapter in a new facility, let us not forget that we continue to build our legacy one day at a time, facing each moment in the knowledge that our great Redeemer lives.

"A man tells his stories so many times that he becomes the stories. They live on after him."

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Casey Lee

Upon graduation in May of 2004, I immediately began my college career. I enrolled at Calhoun Community College for the summer term and remember vividly informing my English 101 teacher that I would not be attending the next class because I would be attending my high school graduation ceremony. I would spend the next three semesters there on full academic scholarship, packing my first two years of college into one. Along with my academic load, I worked in the Registrar's office and was a member of Warhawks, a group of twenty students selected each year

to represent the college. I then transferred to the University of Alabama. While in Tuscaloosa, I continued to take on a full academic load as well as work full time as an assistant manager at The Limited. Needless to say, my undergraduate career was more work than play. I completed my undergraduate degree in December of 2007 with a major in history and minor in political science. I am now working on a Masters of Arts in Education and am taking things much slower... sort of. I began the two year program this past January and am due to complete it this upcoming May. I am not working the same job, but still working. I was awarded a graduate assistantship that allows me to work alongside professors throughout their research. And I have found the time to enjoy a few intramural sports. Just this past month my flag football team made it to the semifinals of the Quaker State SEC 3 on 3 women's tournament.

Many who read this will probably say, what a crazy girl. Maybe, but it would not have been possible had I not learned many lessons from the faculty at DHCA. I am indebted to so many for the work, time, and effort that were put into my education. These men and women taught me what perseverance, hard work, and responsibility could accomplish. While many have moved on in their careers and no longer call DHCA home, they will always be a part of my DHCA family. I do not think that words do justice to the gratitude that many DHCA alumni feel towards our former teachers. I can say this of myself- Teachers, you showed me the depth of your compassion, dedication, and faith... these are the things that I hope to carry with me as an educator so that maybe one day I may inspire at least one student as you have.

An even greater thank you should be said to my parents. Without them, the opportunity to attend Decatur Heritage would not have been possible. I am forever grateful that I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home and be a part of such a wonderful family.

To the current students of DHCA: I remember my first day of school at Decatur Heritage; it was my freshmen year. My heart was pounding and the sunshine was blinding off of the glass doors; I couldn't see as I walked into the school. I wanted to turn around and run I was so scared, but all of a sudden a young woman's voice hollered my name. In seconds, I was surrounded by wonderful girls who would become my future teammates. Because of that, I challenge you to cherish your time; you will not get it back. Enjoy your friends; make many memories. Above all, make something of yourself. Regardless of what people believe about you it matters not; only what you believe about yourself. Be proud of who you are and where you come from. Go Eagles!

Casey Lee

## SPRING PICNIC

APRIL 28, 5PM

Join us for the annual Decatur Heritage Spring Picnic. Bring a picnic supper for you and your family. Enjoy visiting with parents, students, faculty and staff. Watch for more details in upcoming weekly e-mails and Monday folders.



## Teacher Appreciation Day Thursday, May 7

Lunch will be provided for all the faculty and staff in the Library

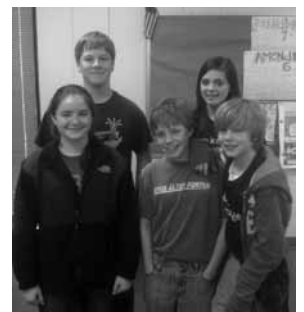
### PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES Friday, March 13

Students will be dismissed as follows

K4 and K5 11am  
Grades 1-6 11:30am  
Grades 7-12 11:55am

## DHCA BUILDERS CLUB

DHCA is excited to announce the formation of our first middle school service organization. The Builders Club is the largest middle school service organization in the nation.



Our charter club consists of forty 7th and 8th grade members. This student-led community service organization seeks to build leadership and service skills in our young people.

Our elected officers are President - Jordan Holland, Vice-President - David Quinn, Treasurer - Macy Ladner, Secretary - Ingram Stephenson and Chaplain - John William Clark. Faculty Sponsor - Ty Patterson.

## News from the Guidance Office

### Lower School:

- Mark your calendars: Stanford 10 testing will take place on March 9 – 13 for 3rd – 6th grade students. More information will be sent home soon.
- This semester the kindergarten through 5th grade students are focusing on bully prevention. Students are learning to identify behaviors that are hurtful to others, as well as strategies to deal with bullies.
- 6th grade students are currently learning about conflict resolution. We are focusing on strategies to work out conflict instead of gossiping, fighting, or running away from it. Also, this semester our 6th graders will be preparing for middle school by learning about changing classes, lockers, organization, etc. This is a big transition for our sixth grade students, and can be both exciting and a little scary.

### Upper School:

- 7th – 9th grade students will take the Stanford 10 on March 9th and 10th. The assessment will be given first through fourth periods.
- Senior parents – It is time to fill out the FAFSA. Check with individual colleges to find out the deadline for completing the FAFSA.
- Lastly, a reminder about upcoming ACT and SAT testing: Only two more test dates remain before the beginning of the next school year. All juniors should register if you have not previously taken one of the tests. See Mrs. Ross for registration information and practice booklets.

ACT Dates: April 4 (Deadline February 27, Late Deadline March 13)  
June 13 (Deadline May 8, Late Deadline May 22)

SAT Dates: May 2 (Deadline March 31, Late Deadline April 9)  
June 6 (Deadline May 5, Late Deadline May 15)

Please call anytime you have questions or concerns about personal, social, or academic issues regarding your student.

*Melissa Ross*



*Cookout and Staff vs. Senior Basketball Game Monday, April 20, 1:45 pm.*



### "WHY WE CHOSE DECATUR HERITAGE FOR OUR DAUGHTERS..."

*There are many reasons why we chose Decatur Heritage Christian Academy for our family but they can basically all be summed up with the fact that we want the best for our children. We are not talking about material things but instead providing them with the best education, atmosphere, teachers and friends that is within our power. We have found that at DHEA.*

*It is a school unlike any other that we have ever been involved with. We feel like our children are being very well educated and are not only being thoroughly prepared for college but also for life. We appreciate the fact that they not only are taking very challenging and informative Bible classes but are also being taught all of the subjects from a Biblical worldview. They participate in student led chapel services and are involved in a number of extracurricular school related activities. We absolutely could not be happier.*

*I (Gail) am now a teacher at the school and I get to see things from a different perspective than I did when we were trying to make the decision to give Decatur Heritage a try. I have an insider's view of the family atmosphere that is prevalent at school. We have the most unique, special, wonderful students that you could possibly imagine. I feel blessed to be a part of each one of their lives and I am so grateful that we were led to make this decision for our own children. Here they are not only a number, they are an integral part of each class. Because the classes are small, everyone gets to know each other very well and they all seem to accept and encourage each other daily. Is it a perfect school? Absolutely not, it is full of imperfect humans and therefore, it is also imperfect. But what you can be assured of is that we are constantly striving to be the best school that we can be and we are continually searching for God's direction for our school and for each one of our students. As a parent and as a teacher I find peace in that and am confident that we have made an excellent choice for our family.*

*Phil and Mary Gail Olinger*



*DHCA Beta Club sponsored a week of "Souper Bowl of Caring". More than 1,000 cans of food were donated to the Neighborhood Christian Center which will be distributed to families in the area.*



*Will Karrh, Michael Howard, Emily Quinn and Ashley Holmes load the van with the boxes of food.*



*Kristin Olinger (left) and Rachel SoloRio (right) carry a box of food to be transported to NCC.*



# Library News



## 2008-2009 UPPER SCHOOL YEARBOOK

Order your Upper School yearbook for \$50 before the end of the school year. The books will be delivered in the fall of 2009. All yearbooks are pre-ordered and there may not be any extras available for purchase. Order forms are available in both school offices.

### SENIOR PARENTS

Tell your seniors how wonderful they are!!!! Senior recognition ads on sale now through April 30th. You set it up or send Coach Holiday the pictures and message and the staff will do it for you.

FULL PAGE \$200      HALF PAGE \$110  
QUARTER PAGE \$60      EIGHTH OF A PAGE \$40

### CANDID SHOTS

The Upper School Yearbook Staff is looking for photos of your Upper School student at sporting events, holidays, with friends, DNOW, hunting, fishing, and Key Club luncheons. These can be emailed to Coach Holiday, copied to a disk or flash drive, or can be added to the yearbook site at [images.jostens.com](http://images.jostens.com), login is 1180086 and the password is eagles.



### BIRTHDAY BOOKS

Kelly Sammons  
from Mom

Kelly Sammons  
from Dad

David Roden  
from Mom & Dad

Avery Bowman  
from Mom & Dad

Avery Bowman  
from Florence, Merrell & Blythe

Florence Bowman  
from Mom & Dad

Florence Bowman  
from Avery, Merrell & Blythe

Merrell Bowman  
from Mom & Dad

Merrell Bowman  
from Avery, Florence & Blythe

Ingram Stephenson  
from Mimi (Elaine Stephenson)

### LIBRARY BOOKS

In honor of the birth of Layla Raye Hanvy daughter of Volleyball Coach Linda Hanvy and her husband, Brandon by the Decatur Heritage Parent Association

In honor of the birth of Joshua Minnon son of Basketball Coach Jon Minnon and his wife, Sarah

by the Decatur Heritage Parent Association

In honor of the 84th Birthday of Mr. John Cook, Sr. by the DHCA Board of Trustees

## - Preschool Update -

After much prayer, we have decided not to purchase the building on Somerville Road. We have been considering several other buildings, but will refrain from making a final decision until we have all the information needed as well as having the peace of God. Isaiah 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." We have complete confidence in Him, as He has been opening and closing doors for us all along. Isaiah 40:31 says for us to "wait upon the Lord and He will renew our strength...". I suppose that waiting is the hardest part, but we have to stand firm in this test of faith. God is always right on time!

Please join us in prayer to find the building He wants us to have so we may continue our ministry of teaching preschool children and laying the foundation for Him. Our plans are to provide preschool to children ages 18 months to 4K.

In His Service,

**WAY TO GO EAGLES!!!**



**Varsity Girls - Area Runner-Up**



**Varsity Boys Area & Subregional Champions and Regional Runner-Up**

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

**WINTER SPORTS  
RECOGNITION NIGHT**

**Tuesday, March 3 - 6pm**  
Light refreshments will be served

**SPRING SPORTS ARE UNDERWAY**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Varsity Baseball</b><br>Monday, March 9, 4pm<br>at Hazlewood  | <b>Tennis</b><br>Tuesday, March 3<br>3:30pm Boys at<br>St. Bernard |
| <b>JV Baseball</b><br>Friday, March 6,<br>4:30pm<br>at Falkville | <b>Golf</b><br>Tuesday, March 3, 3pm<br>vs Madison Academy         |
| <b>Softball</b><br>Monday, March 2, 4pm<br>at Speake             |  |

**VOLLEYBALL**

**Spring conditioning begins**

Grades 6 – 11  
March 2

**UAH Spring Camp**

Grades 4th – 9th  
March 16-18  
9am - 12pm  
Cost \$75

Registration forms available from Coach Holiday

**Middle School Spring Practice**

May 8, 11, 12, 14, 15  
5:30pm – 7pm

**J.V. and Varsity Spring Practice**

May 11 – 15  
3pm – 5pm

**Summer Training Begins**

June 1 – July 31  
Varsity and JV  
Tues, Wed, & Thur  
11am – 1pm  
Middle School  
Tues & Thur  
5:30pm – 7pm

**Just Arrived DHCA Stadium Seats  
\$45 - Visit the athletic office  
or call 351-4277**

*Thank You*

In early February, Decatur Heritage hosted the boys' area and subregional tournament games. A special thank you is extended to Jamie Denard for organizing the hospitality room for visiting coaches and officials. The Athletic Department would also like to thank all the volunteers who donated their time and energies to man the gate, work concessions, pick up food and supervise the hospitality room.

*Sponsors were Applebee's, Arbys, Captain D's, Chick-Fil-A, Chili's, Church's Fried Chicken, JW Steakhouse, Kroger, Logan's, Lucky's Supermarket, Morgan County Co-op, Panera Bread, Pepsi, Piggly Wiggly, Publix, Red Lobster, Ruby Tuesdays, Ryan's, Simply Delicious, Staples, Wendys, and Zaxby's.*

# CALENDAR

## March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 <i>Sandy Stephenson's Birthday</i> <b>4pm Softball vs Speake</b>	3 3pm Golf vs Madison Academy 3:30pm Boys Tennis at St. Bernard 4pm Girls Tennis at Athens Bible 6pm Winter Sports Recognition Night	4 8am DHPA Meeting	5 <b>4pm Softball at Falkville</b>	6 4:30pm JV Baseball at Falkville	7 11am JV Baseball vs Priceville
8 <b>4pm Baseball at Hazlewood</b> <b>4pm Softball at Hazlewood</b>	9 3pm Golf at Madison Academy <b>4:30pm Baseball vs Hazlewood</b> <b>4:30pm Softball vs Hazlewood</b> 6pm JV Baseball vs Hazlewood	10 <b>Report Cards Issued</b>	11 <b>2:30pm Softball vs Hubbard</b>	12 Parent-Teacher Conferences - Student Early Dismissal <b>3pm Baseball vs Danville</b> 3:30pm Boys Tennis at Hartselle 3:30pm Girls Tennis at Hartselle	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Heather Sasser's Birthday</i> <b>2pm Baseball vs Franklin Road</b> 4:30pm JV Baseball vs Franklin Road	21 <b>1pm Baseball at Priceville</b> 3pm JV Baseball at Priceville
School Holidays - Spring Break						
22 <b>3pm Baseball vs Covenant</b> <b>3pm Softball vs Covenant</b> 5pm JV Baseball vs Covenant	23 3pm Golf vs Westminster <b>3pm Baseball at Covenant</b> 5pm JV Baseball at Covenant	24	25	26 5pm Golf at Priceville 3:30pm Girls Tennis at Catholic <b>4pm Baseball at Tanner</b> 6pm JV Baseball at Tanner	27	28
29 <b>4pm Baseball at Shoals Christian</b> <b>4pm Softball at Shoals Christian</b> 6pm JV Baseball at Shoals Christian	30	31 <b>2:30pm Baseball vs Shoals Christian</b> 3pm Girls Tennis vs Whitesburg <b>4pm Softball vs Shoals Christian</b> 4pm Boys Tennis vs Westminster 4:30pm JV Baseball vs Shoals Christian				

“OUR MISSION is to assist families by providing their children with an education that is excellent and which instills Biblical principles to guide their lives.”

---

## HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

# COMING FALL 2009 NEW CAMPUS

SPRING AVENUE AT VESTAVIA DRIVE, SW

