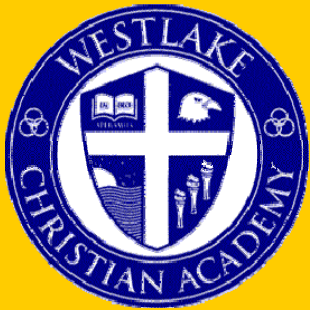


# The Westlake WITNESS

March 2009



#### **Our Mission:**

To provide for Christian families a Christ-centered education that discipled our students to honor Jesus Christ in thought, word and deed.

#### **Administrator:**

Mr. Jeffrey D. Wilcox

#### **Board of Trustees:**

Mrs. Monique Hines  
Mrs. Lauri Hogenkamp  
Mr. Randy Lee  
Mr. Kevin Leman  
Mr. J.R. Strickland

#### **Development Coordinators:**

Mrs. Kris Fabrie  
Mrs. Karen Nalewajk

*"Declare his glory  
among the nations,  
his marvelous deeds  
among all peoples"  
(1 Chron 16:24).*

## Westlake Christian Academy's 6th Annual Auction **Lights, Camera, Auction!**

*A Red Carpet Event*



Cary Grant, Humphrey Bogart, Grace Kelly. Do those names conjure up a picture in your mind of the golden age of Hollywood? Well, that's the theme this year for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual auction to be held on Friday, April 17, at Midlane Country Club in Wadsworth, IL!

We are gearing up for an evening of excitement that will include not only fabulous auction items, but a great dinner and time to connect with both old and new friends. And we want you to join us!

The auction a great social event, but it also raises a large percentage of our annual fund needs. Our goal this year is \$100,000 and you could help us make that happen!

During our live auction, we extend the opportunity to donate directly to our Scholarship and Tuition Assistance Fund and Endowment which enables us to offer financial assistance to families that could not otherwise afford to be at Westlake. During the current 2008/09 school year, 61 students from 30 families, are receiving an

amount of financial assistance as a direct result of your gifts to this fund. (Turn to page 3 to read what this has meant in the life of one single-parent father.)

"The WCA auction is one of the ways we keep tuition affordable for our families. It not only generates a significant amount towards our annual fundraising needs, it's also one of the vehicles we leverage to grow our Scholarship and Tuition Assistance Fund and Endowment," says Mrs. Monique Hines, Chairman of the WCA Board of Trustees. "It provides WCA leadership the flexibility to assist families in financial need, giving them the opportunity to have their children in a Christ-centered educational setting. In our mind, that's what is important."

This year's auction features such fabulous items as a 3 bedroom/3 bath Kauai condo package (pictured on the back page), a family trip to Florida, a Richard Petty driving experience and much more. We hope to have you join us for this exciting event!

Every Student a Disciple of Jesus Christ

## Remodeling Project a Lesson in Leadership for Westlake Student

Jason Leman, sophomore at Westlake Christian Academy and member of Boy Scout Troop 96, led an Eagle Scout project to renovate an interesting attic area above the school's gymnasium. The remote space, just above the south gym entrance, is accessible only by ladder through a small square opening in its floor. The long-abandoned room was dark, dusty, and completely unusable before Jason and his team went to work.

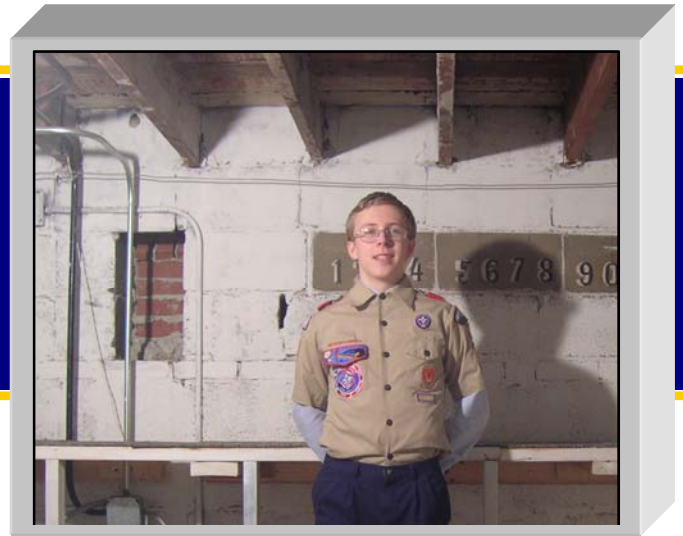
The project began last May when Jason met with Principal Jeff Wilcox to explore possible projects that would benefit the school. In the fall, Jason led 15 scouts and a few adults to complete the work.

The team was excited to discover that the 14 x 16 foot space had once been a projection room from early days of the school's history, when the gymnasium itself was one of the largest indoor gathering areas in the rural community. The gymnasium was completed in 1933 with the capability of hosting civic gatherings, and the projection room was made available for showing films at such events. The small window area of the projection room, now covered with brick and paint, is still visible from inside the gym high on the south wall.

Inside, they found ten large numbers painted on the wall, used to identify the order of film spools on a rack below. The team felt strongly that they should not paint over the numbers, so they remain as a wonderful piece of school and community history.

The area was cleaned, painted, and carpeted, and new lighting and shelving were installed. Jason was resourceful and creative as he sought to minimize cost for the projected \$600 project. He bought a warehouse pallet of carpet tiles for \$15, and saved over 50% on paint by shopping at the "oops" returned custom paint section of the home improvement store. The team dismantled existing wooden backdrops from the school's stage area, and transformed the raw materials into several large shelving units. With donated nails and a volunteer electrician, the out-of-pocket cost of the entire project was only \$40.

The space is now clean, bright, and functional, where athletic gear, uniforms and trophies are organized and accessible. Jason's project will be



*Westlake sophomore, Jason Leman, pictured here in the space he remodeled as part of an Eagle Scout project. His team learned some valuable life lessons in leadership, budgeting, and conservation.*

evaluated by the Eagle Scout Board of Review as he pursues the rank of Eagle Scout this summer. In the meantime, the school is enjoying the functionality of extra room, a renewed appreciation for the special history of the school building, and deep gratitude to Jason for his remarkable service and leadership.

## Westlake Hires Discipleship Director

Westlake has taken a significant step in implementing its vision and mission by hiring Mr. Kurt Flemming as Discipleship Director. "We believe this is vital if we are to achieve our vision of *Every Student a Disciple of Jesus Christ*," says Principal Jeff Wilcox. Mr. Flemming will be responsible for spiritual oversight on a practical, daily basis, working with the administration to promote activities and an environment which lends to optimal spiritual growth for students. Developing annual themes and scheduling chapel speakers will be integral aspects of his role, as well as building relationships which allow for one-on-one discipleship.

Mr. Flemming, who teaches all secondary Bible classes, will also ensure that the Bible curriculum for all grades provides the continuity and depth to challenge students in their growth in the knowledge and grace of God.

## A Father Speaks About What Westlake Has Meant to His Family

I am so blessed for what the school has done this year with tuition assistance for the kids. Without the school's help I really don't know what I'd do. I would love to pass on the heartfelt gratitude I have for Mr. Wilcox, the faculty, the staff, the teachers and the board members for what you all have done for my children and me! Your example hasn't just affected my life, but the lives of people I'm around. I was excited to learn that a close family of ours has returned to WCA this year. I also was excited that a new family decided to bring their kids to WCA this year. This is a direct result of my talking to people about what the school is and their mission!!



*John is pictured here relaxing with his son and daughter!*

I'm a firm believer that prayer changes things. It must! The Bible says it does, and I am a walking example of how it changes lives. God is so faithful in all things and I can't thank you enough for everything.

My focus will not change; I want to keep my children as WCA throughout their school years. The amount of learning they get gives me peace of mind and the quality of teaching from the teachers is awesome! I could write so much about each kid and their days at WCA. To add that they are getting the most important thing, a Christian worldview and leadership like no other, what more could I ever ask for?

I am so very blessed by God in my life. The most important thing to me is that I have my kids so I could raise them in a Christian home, with those values in a country and world filled with crisis and such uncertainty, due to the fact that we've gotten so far from God. Without this school, I'm telling you that none of this would have been possible. I'm forever grateful to Mr. Wilcox and the board, to the faculty and all who have prayed and made everything possible and continue to do so.

I am indebted to you all and can only pray that I can do something in the future to repay you in some small way!

In Christ, John

## WCA Robotics Team Places 16<sup>th</sup> at State Competition!

Team Gesundheit, named for the group's allergy project, placed 16<sup>th</sup> out of 64 teams at the Illinois State Robotics Tournament that took place on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> place win in the First LEGO league (FLL) Regional Tournament afforded them the opportunity to participate at the state level. The students designed, built, programmed and tested their robot, made of Legos, motors, gears and sensors and an on-board computer. The mission explored carbon sequestration and allergen growth. "We kept achieving beyond our expectations!" said Coach Kurt Flemming.



*Parent coaches Jim Fry and Dale Henke assisted Coach Kurt Flemming in leading Team Gesundheit, WCA's Robotics Team!*

## Why Westlake Students LOVE Their Teachers! Our Top Ten List:

- 10 ...because she gives me fruit snacks! *Peter Simpson, Pre-K*
- 9 ...because she puts the numbers wrong on the calendar so we can figure it out! *Andre Kuvshnikov, K*
- 8 ...because she does a silly dance! *Elizabeth Strom, K*
- 7 ...because she makes learning fun! *Mackenzie DeReus, 1st*
- 6 ...because she doesn't get frustrated when we play dumb! *Katie Strickland, 6th*
- 5 ...because we do lots of art! She used to be an art teacher, you know! *Ericka Beckman, 2nd*
- 4 ...because she has a big heart for her students! *Ashley Tan, 5th*
- 3 ...because she makes us memorize Bible verses! *Ryan Wilcox, 3rd*
- 2 ...because she is full of grace! *Amy Mongin, 4th*
- 1 ...because she prays for us! It's a blessing to have a teacher like that! *Alexis Golston, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade*



***Need a vacation? Come to our auction and bid on this fabulous Kauai trip!***



275 South Lake Street  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
847.548.6209  
[www.WestlakeChristian.org](http://www.WestlakeChristian.org)

**“Every student  
a Disciple of Jesus Christ”**