

# The Westlake WITNESS

September 2009



#### **Our Mission:**

To provide for Christian families a Christ-centered education that discipulates 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).*



## There's No Place Like Home!

We have a permanent home and our name is on the front of it!

On Friday, May 1, WCA families gathered in front of the school building to participate in the dedication of our new sign. Principal Jeff Wilcox unveiled the bronze plaque (pictured just to the right of the front door), commemorating the event and the families who sponsored a letter in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one.

Development Coordinators Kris Fabrie and Karen Nalewajk believe that getting Westlake's name on the front of the building is a major component of a successful marketing strategy. "We wanted to increase our visibility in the community and let people know that we are on the corner of Rt. 120 and Lake Street to stay," said Karen.

Westlake's mission is to make

every student a disciple of Jesus Christ. A comprehensive marketing plan will allow us to increase our circle of influence. We know that's what you desire as our faithful partners. Your prayers and financial support are transforming lives for eternity. Read the courageous and incredible testimony of one of our WCA parents, Stephanie, which is included on the next page!

Many of you who attended Westlake Christian Academy when it was at a different location or under a different name might be interested in reading the historical chronology which is included on the back page of this newsletter.

Thanks for taking a moment to praise God and celebrate where He has brought us in the last 38 years!

Every Student a Disciple of Jesus Christ 1

## Westlake is a lifesaver for one single mom and her children!

I wanted to share with you the story of how my children and I came to Westlake as it clearly demonstrates God's provision and mercy.

My children and I fled a neighboring state a number of years ago as victims of domestic violence. For our safety, in the dead of the night, we left our home and all our possessions except the clothes on our backs. My children were 3 and 6 years old at that time. When we arrived in Illinois, I had no money, no car, no job, and almost no hope. We stayed with relatives for a few months and then we were offered a position at Home of the Sparrow, a transitional shelter program providing housing and supportive services for homeless women and their children in McHenry.

During my stay at Home of the Sparrow, the Lord began healing me from my wounds, and the children and I began to thrive. We found a great church home, I found a permanent job, incidentally driving past Westlake Christian Academy from McHenry to McGaw Park every day, and the Lord used my family to provide me with vehicles, and I continued to grow in my faith. At one time, Home of the Sparrow sponsored a teaching time through Harris Bank about the benefits of home ownership, and I remember wondering if Harris Bank was aware of their audience - a homeless shelter - but I listened, and a seed of hope was planted.

Two years after entering the homeless shelter, it was time for us to move out on our own. By this time I had taken the necessary steps toward pre-qualification for a home mortgage, which was a miracle. Armed with my numbers, I began my house hunt. There were very few homes in my price range in a community with good schools, and I was very disappointed. Then during a Bible study, the Lord revealed Westlake to me through a former teacher. After talking with her, I learned I'd been driving by Westlake for two solid years by then – often seeing the children playing in the afternoon in their uniforms. A little light bulb went on in my head, and I decided to explore Westlake for my children, who would be entering 4<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> grades that fall. Westlake offered me and my children tuition assistance, which made it possible for me to choose a home in an affordable community while obtaining



*Stephanie is pictured here with her children.*

not only a good education for my children – but one with a Christ-centered focus. After being accepted to Westlake, God led me to a most wonderful townhome, and I know He meant it just for me.

What I didn't know was the blessing that Westlake would be to me and my children. Life as a single, sole-supporting mother of two children is not easy. I work full-time and there is no end to the things that need to be accomplished. But when I leave my children at Westlake in the mornings, I know that they are shown God's love. God's love permeates them throughout the day at Westlake. Our family was broken and bruised in body and spirit, but Westlake has been a source of healing and love for us.

Just this past summer when my finances became much tighter, I wasn't sure we would be able to come back to Westlake – there was no more overtime at work, there were additional expenses, and gas was over \$4.00 a gallon! At that time, I was meeting with a Christian woman from our church to help me with my budgeting and she pointed to the monthly dollar figure I paid for tuition, and asked, "How important is this to you?" To which I answered, "Right up there behind the mortgage". I knew I couldn't afford even that amount, and we began praying about what to do. God answered that prayer through tuition assistance from Westlake. Again, God has provided a way for my children to attend Westlake. God, in his loving kindness, has shown us mercy, and I am forever grateful.

In Christ,  
Stephanie

# Seniors Travel to the Dominican Republic to Show Christ's Love!

Six seniors from WCA's 2009 senior class traveled to the Dominican Republic in April for the school's 12<sup>th</sup> annual mission trip. The students traveled with SCORE International, a ministry that connects schools and churches with foreign missionaries and provides meals and lodging to short-term mission groups.

The small team, accompanied by teachers Kurt Flemming and Connie Garcia, made a powerful impact on the villages, orphanages and church they visited over a six-day period. The team included: Chelsea Behn, Adam Gilbert, Jon Schroeder, Joy Schroeder, Melanie Taylor, and Spencer Wilcox.

Throughout the trip, the group assisted local missionaries with teaching and playing with the children, sharing the gospel and otherwise meeting whatever physical needs they could. They brought six suitcases filled with small items collected from the entire student body, such as school supplies, toys, hygiene and baby care items.

In addition to these small treasures, the students brought money that they have been collecting for this trip since they were in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, through fundraisers and direct support by individual donors. They spent \$500 to sponsor a "Feed a Village" project, which required them to buy groceries, assemble meal kits and distribute them to 40 families for 2-3 weeks of meals. The Westlake students also gave \$700 for construction materials to help build Casa de Luz, an orphanage for disabled children. They donated their own labor as well, mixing cement and assembling concrete blocks, finishing a half of a wall by day's end.

Upon arrival in the small villages, the Westlake students were greeted by enthusiastic groups of small children. The kids ran up and crowded around, eager to hug the students, climb on them for piggy back rides, and play with their digital cameras. Later they would pull them away to play soccer and baseball.



The Dominican children were especially fascinated with Chelsea Behn's "strange" shiny blonde hair.

Their joyful exuberance was remarkable amid the impoverished conditions of the villages.

With high unemployment, the villagers live in self-made shelters constructed from discarded materials, such as cardboard, sheets of metal and plastic, and anything else they can find. The small structures house a large family within the equivalent space of an American living room. Outside, garbage was strewn everywhere and clean

water was hard to find. Even the animals were starving. The living conditions were eye-opening for the teenagers to experience firsthand.

In Santo

Domingo, they visited a government-run orphanage for the most severely disabled children. The Westlake students interacted with the orphans as best they could, but found the experience truly heartbreaking.

Kurt Flemming, Bible Teacher and Discipleship



Director for Westlake, considers the senior trip to be the culmination of 12 years of discipleship training on

how to be a servant leader, which is the heart of the school's spiritual development curriculum. The students learn simple songs in Spanish in the youngest grades, then move on to minister to others in our community. Finally, the mission trip allows the students to gain real life missionary experience.

Mr. Flemming feels the students return home more appreciative of the comfortable life they have here, more eager to serve those with so little (Matthew 25:40), more mature, and more enthusiastic about their individual abilities to truly make a difference in people's lives.

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

- 10 ...because he hops on one foot to make me laugh! *Hannah Gordon, Pre-K*
- 9 ...because he hugs us all the time! *Carina Alsina, K*
- 8 ...because he gave my brother a handful of M&M's! *Alex Kagay, 1<sup>st</sup>*
- 7 ...because he sings the birthday song in his bad voice! *Hope Perry, 3<sup>rd</sup>*
- 6 ...because he is a natural comedian! *Arlene Carrillo, 4<sup>th</sup>*
- 5 ...because he's always really happy! *Hannah Hough, 4<sup>th</sup>*
- 4 ...because he is wise and gives you good advice! *Mikayla Henke, 6<sup>th</sup>*
- 3 ...because he doesn't drop kick us out the door for every wrong thing we do! *John Mark Clevenger, 6<sup>th</sup>*
- 2 ...because he pays the teachers! *Carter Fabrie, 6<sup>th</sup>*
- 1 ...because he put a toad in his mouth! *Micah Henke, 5<sup>th</sup>*

## WCA's Journey From Waukegan to Grayslake:

A Historical Chronology of 38 Years of  
God's Faithfulness!

- 1972** – Waukegan Christian School opens its doors in the Waukegan Bible Church at 2313 Washington Street in Waukegan, IL
- 1975** – WCS moves to the Christian Catholic Church building at 2500 Dowie Memorial Drive, Zion, IL
- 1977** – WCS moves down the street to the Lakeview School Building at 2200 Bethesda Blvd, Zion, IL
- 1995** – WCS changes its name to Westlake Christian Academy
- 1998** – WCA Elementary moves to the Gurnee Grade School building at 940 Kilbourne Road, Gurnee, IL
- 1999** – WCA Junior High and High School join WCA Elementary in Gurnee
- 2002** – WCA moves to the Lakeview Elementary School building at 275 S. Lake Street, in Grayslake.
- 2005** – On Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>, WCA purchases the building at 275 S. Lake Street and has its first permanent home!



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[www.WestlakeChristian.org](http://www.WestlakeChristian.org)

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