
RAGGANT STANDARD

FUNDRAISING FEAST



At this point you should have received an invitation and letter inviting you to our annual Fundraising Feast! We covet your prayers for those planning, attending, performing, and giving. Please also consider whom you may invite!

This is a highlight of our year - it's an evening filled with sweet fellowship, singing, food, and celebration of all the things God has graciously done in our school - and hopeful waiting on on what He will do in the future.

The Feast will be at Reclamation Church beginning at 6:30pm. Students should also arrive by 6:30pm in Event Uniform, as they will be singing.

YEARBOOKS

This year we will be using TreeRing for our Yearbooks - the cost will be lower, you can order directly through their website, and you can add two custom pages of your very own (including quotes, pictures, formatting, etc). I am working to have the bulk of the Yearbook design finished by the end of April. The formatting for personal pages (I will be sending out the link in the next week) and Yearbook orders will be due by Friday, May 5th. Orders will arrive the last week of school. Plan on budgeting about \$20 per 22-page hardcover yearbook.

Keep an eye on the Facebook ECS Parents' Page and your email for more specifics, including links for ordering and customization. I will also be asking those who initially showed interest in helping with the Yearbook to lend their assistance in organizing pages, adding contributions, and proofreading over the next two weeks.



TreeRing is a start-up Yearbook company interested in doing something new in the Yearbook industry, like printing on demand, and making yearbooks more streamlined, and accessible, and affordable.

ECS SPEECH TOURNAMENT

After a short delay, the first ECS Speech Tournament will be Friday, April 28th. Secondary students will be competing in three divisions: Persuasive (prepared) Speech, Dramatic Interpretation, and Impromptu. Family and friends are invited to the Finals, which will

BIRTHDAYS

Edith Bowers: April 25th
 Tatyana Pohli: May 8th
 Thomas Callender: May 8th
 Lucy Bowers: May 12th
 Madeline Smith: May 13th
 Laird Marlatt: May 16th
 Timothy Durham: May 20th
 Madeline Harsh: May 21st
 Merian Bowers: May 21st
 Cheyenne Crane: May 22nd
 Kara Rothenberger: June 8th
 Finley Walker: June 11th

"WE BRING STUDENTS TO THE FEAST OF KNOWLEDGE TO REMEMBER WHO WE ARE AND WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE AS WELL AS TO CELEBRATE THE MIGHTY VICTORY OF RESURRECTION AND THE PROMISE OF RESTORATION. CHRISTIAN CLASSICAL EDUCATORS APPROACH THIS MISSION WITH JOY, CONFIDENT THAT WE OFFER KNOWLEDGE THAT NOURISHES AND FAITH THAT FLOURISHES."

- HEIDI WHITE

- ECS to carpool (for Secondary only).
- 4/28: ECS In-House Speech Tournament
 - 5/5: Assembly @ 2:15pm (No Dress Uniform)
 - 5/5: Fundraising Feast @ 6:30pm at Reclamation Church. Choirs will be performing - students wear Event Uniform.
 - 5/16 - 5/12: Grammar Testing
 - 5/15 - 5/18 + 5/20: Secondary Testing
 - 5/19: Field Trip #4: HIKE (location TBD)
 - 5/29: Memorial Day: No School At Home
 - 5/30: Spring Concert @ 6:30pm. Students need to arrive at 6pm in Event Uniform.
 - 5/31: Re-Enrollment Paperwork & Payment Due



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO JOYFULLY AND HEARTILY HELPED AT THE WORKDAY! THE CHURCH GROUNDS LOOK BEAUTIFUL!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Congratulations to the Special Award Recipients at the Frank DeMiero Jazz Festival - and fantastic job to all the students!:
 Timothy Durham, Kelly Durham, Bonnie Bour, Ellie Sarr, Abbie Sarr, Tatyana Pohli, Laird Marlatt, Isaiah vanderBeken, Addison Hall, and Madeline Harsh.

THE CLT

This year, we will be instituting a new standardized test for our 9th - 11th graders.

I had the opportunity to speak with one of the founders a few weeks ago, and I am excited about both the test and the impetus behind it! It is called the CLT, or Classical Learning Test. It is about a year old, and was created by a gentleman who had run a SAT Prep Company for many years. As the SAT began to modify in accordance with Common Core, among other things, people began to ask him if there was an alternative test to the ACT and SAT. As testing reflects pedagogy - and what we value - he was sure there was, but after searching (and many private schools bemoaning the lack of such a test), he decided to do something crazy and launch a new test to reflect the type of quality education many classical and private schools are seeking to give their students - a test that evaluates an integrated, deep, comprehensive education.

We are currently in the process to have ECS become a testing center, and I will be a Proctor. Unlike in the past, students are responsible for securing their own tablet or laptop to take the test, and **there will only be ONE testing date this year, Saturday, May 20th.** The test will be administered at the school. That said, we will still be blocking out some time the week before to help familiarize students with the test and do a practice test.

The CLT is not accepted or recognized by really the point. It IS recognized Universities and Colleges in the private ones. But more than tape and bureaucratic boxes , knowledge, and we're excited

most four-year universities - but that's not and accepted by all the Classical United States, and many of the jumping through educational red this test truly seeks to *test* about that.

For more information,

check out their website:
www.cltexam.com



A NOTE FROM THE U.H.

A Festal Curriculum: A Special Word on the Fundraising Feast

Some disciplines are more fun to train than others.

Getting up early? Hard.

Going to bed early? Harder.

Laughing when things look bleak? Super-hard.

Feasting? Hard. And easy. And requires clean-up. All of it.

Allow me to offer some context for my observation.

As Christians, we do a lot of asking. We ask God to save us, to sustain us, and to meet our needs, both small and great. This is right and good, and - when done in faith - it brings God great honor. He loves to work through the prayers of His saints. When He answers our prayers, then, it is right to give Him thanks. Feasting presents such an opportunity.

When we feast, we discipline our hearts. We consciously make merry, enjoying gifts that come from the Giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). These gifts often include good food and drink as well as other merrymaking souls around us. When we enjoy God's good gifts with gratefulness, we honor Him.

Feasting also disciplines our minds. We consciously give God thanks with our words and our grateful actions. John Calvin suggested that feasting is effective for subduing the flesh while demonstrating contrition. In a similar fashion, feasting is good for us, too. When we feast, we respond deliberately to God's blessing, and we do so with thankfulness, singing, fellowship and enjoyment. It takes "Thank You" to the next level.

I'm convinced that this needs to be a part of our curriculum. With the Raggants, we celebrate the start and end of school and Reformation Day with feasting. We throw in a Christmas party for good measure. And for the adults, we also have our Fundraising Feast. In this, we schedule a night for the adults in our immediate and extended school community to gather and enjoy some of God's blessings to the school with full-throated (and full-bellied) gladness. Fittingly, we express additional needs as a school and invite the guests to be used of God to meet those needs.

But let's not kid ourselves: this is hard work. From planning to putting up decorations to childcare to food service to cleanup, it's hard work. And even for the guests, it's our job to make sure our hearts are in a position to *receive* as well as to give. Fasting is a lot less mess. But this discipline of feasting is worth the effort it takes.

But I want the Raggants to be able to both ask well, and to receive well. Let's show them how.

May God help us to *receive* well on May 5.

- Jonathan Sarr