

# Cornerstone Connection

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## Important Dates

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

- October 31st —  
November 1st-4th

### Feed My Starving Children All School Event

- November 17th

### Preschool Christmas Program

- December 2nd

### CCA Praise Program

- December 9th

### Christmas Break

- December 19th—  
January 2nd



**Zachery Johnson**

CCA student for 13  
years!

## From the Desk of the Administrator

*Fall Edition 2011*

For this issue of *Cornerstone Connection*, I have turned the pen over to CCA high school senior, Zachery Johnson. Zach's compelling story below truly demonstrates the value of CCA's academic program and the vision of our school fulfilled, as we play a role in raising up effective leaders of godly character.

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011, I arrived in Managua, Nicaragua, with a mission team from my church. This is the second poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere. This was my first time out of the country, besides a visit to Canada, to a place that didn't at all resemble America. When the team got off the plane, we were all excited for the week to come. Right after meeting the missionaries, Ken and Kendra Doult, we were introduced to the kids we were going to minister to that week. These kids lived in the city dump! I was speechless when we arrived at their community; I suppose I was in a state of shock since words escaped me throughout their introduction. I did realize, though, that this was going to be a really big step out of my comfort zone. They lived in little shacks made of metal, plastic, and tarp-like material that they had scrounged up. They slept in wooden crates. They were able to make a little money by collecting recyclables and cleaning up things like plastic bottles for resale, but what really surprised me the most is that they were the happiest kids and adults I have ever seen. It was awesome! For the rest of the week we had the privilege of getting to know some of the kids from the dump. We got to take them out of that environment to a camp, and it was 24/7 with these kids sleeping in the same dorm room, eating together, doing life together, and worshipping God together.

At the camp, each team member was assigned a station; I was in charge of the games. But I have to tell you about two awesome kids I got to know who changed my life. Bryan and Carlos, who lived in the dump, were assigned to be my helpers for the games. Despite the language barrier, we became the best of friends. By showing them some care, a little attention, and love, they literally clung to me for the entire week (and in a way they still do)! They were starving for God and His love and I had the privilege of being His hands and feet. About six kids accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. It was so cool to see their conversion. Those thirty kids we had at that camp changed my life forever, and I'll never be the same.

Before and after the camp, we went to a small church a little way from the camp. In the services we had at that little church, we could feel God's presence, especially when we had an altar call and prayed for the congregation. With the help of an interpreter I also shared my story of becoming a Christian. It was so amazing to feel God's presence, despite the language barrier. It blew my mind. God did amazing things in and through that church. I learned that our missionaries teamed up every week with other missionaries to provide a meal for the kids in the dump. Hundreds of kids showed up. These kids showed amazing joy despite their situation. These missionaries also organized a uniform drive to help these kids so that they would be able to go back to school. I experienced so much love and sacrifice in so little time, but it left an impression that is with me for a lifetime.

My school's vision is "to make effective leaders that blend academic achievement and biblical truth." I believe this effect of spiritual growth has occurred in my life as a student that has been at CCA since kindergarten. I am richer for all I've experienced as a student and now a missionary. The missionaries from Nicaragua shared with us afterward that "we were a team that came to serve not to be served." They saw our team strive to bring Christ, but we were awesomely blessed by Christ in our service to the kids. I am so thankful I went on this mission trip. I can't wait to go back and continue the work God has started in my life. I am changed but He's still changing me!



**“If we don’t  
tell the true  
meaning of  
Christmas,  
who will?”  
CCA  
preschoolers  
will!**

### CCA Preschoolers: A Charlie Brown Christmas

Christmas time is here, happiness and cheer, fun for all, that children call their favorite time of year. These are the beginning words to a song in CCA preschool’s production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, directed by Michelle Cooper. Those words that were written back in 1965 still ring true today! It’s not only a child’s favorite time of year, but many adults share that same feeling. Has Christmas become too commercialized? Join us (the Peanuts gang) as we find the true meaning of Christmas. The students have been practicing since mid-September for this production. Many of the original songs from the television special will be sung that evening. We will also reenact the famous Linus scene when he quietly tells Charlie Brown what Christmas is all about from the Gospel according to Luke, chapter 2 verse 8-14, King James Version.

*“And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill towards men.”*

According to a special on the making of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, Charles Shultz was adamant about keeping this scene in, remarking that “If we don’t tell the true meaning of Christmas, who will?” **CCA preschool will!**

**CCA Preschool Production  
A Charlie Brown Christmas**  
Join us on December 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in CCA’s gymnasium.

### Preschool Fall Adventures



The apples are ready for picking and it’s time for the pumpkin harvest! CCA Preschoolers had a chance to enjoy the fall weather and head out to local apple orchards and pumpkin farms for some fun-filled field trips. Petting zoos, hayrides, apple-picking, and more made for some exciting adventures for our preschool classes.!

## CCA Grandparents Day 2011!

### CCA Loves Grandparents!!

*Our annual Grandparents Day on September 16th, 2011 was a huge success. This year we had approximately 350 grandparents join their CCA grandchildren for a time of fun and learning! Lunch was served and memories were made. Thanks to all of those who contributed your time and talents to make this such a memorable event.*



**Thank you, grandparents, for making this day so special!**

*“My grandma and grandpa keep buying me things, because I’m so sweet!”*

*Michael Chami  
Pre-K student*

*Mrs. McGee’s  
class*



**“But the love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children’s children of those who are faithful to his covenant, of those who obey his commandments.”**

**Psalm 103:17-18**

We  
Love  
Books!

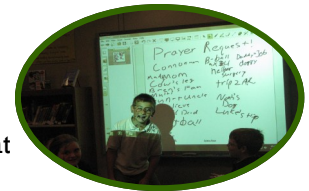
## “Check Out” The Exciting Changes at the CCA Library

Introducing our new head librarian Mrs. Tonya Braun, and library aide Mrs. Tracy Hallebach.



And...check out the latest library resources :

- **A SMART Board**—an interactive learning tool that helps enhance instruction and learning. Book reviews are now more interactive using state of the art technology. CCA teachers can also take advantage of this new tool for their classes.
- **Puppets and flannel boards for preschoolers**
- **New lessons on the Dewey Decimal System for K-6th.**
- **Access to CCA Library Online**—students in 3rd—12th grade can sign up to view due date status, renew books, place hold on materials and more.



## CCA Resource Program: Meeting The Needs of Our Students

At CCA, we are committed to helping students succeed in the classroom. *Kathy Johnson*, resource teacher at CCA, supports that effort by assisting students from kindergarten—12th grade with differing learning abilities to achieve their best in the classroom setting. CCA strives to meet the needs of these students through a comprehensive, collaborative effort that includes student’s educational team and their parents. The support provided emphasizes responsibility, organization, study skills, homework completion and Christ-like character.

If you have any questions about the CCA Resource Program, or feel your child might benefit from additional support, please contact Ms. Johnson.



## Shaping our Future and Supporting our School!

### 3rd annual "Laps for Learning"

CCA kicked off their 3rd annual Laps for Learning fundraiser with a schoolwide pep assembly on Wednesday, August 31st. Students were motivated and challenged to join their fellow classmates in this event by NIU Quarterback, Chandler Harnish. Race day, scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th, will allow students, teachers, and parents to lace up their shoes and support our school! Proceeds for Laps for Learning will serve to build our tuition assistance program and assist our athletic department.

*Congratulations* to senior Taylor Leach for winning the Laps for Learning T-shirt design contest. Her design and logo appear on the front of this shirts, along with our sponsors on the back. Congratulations Taylor!

### Support CCA: Get Involved with Parents For Cornerstone (PFC)

#### TRiP (Tuition Reduction Program) Update

The Tuition Reduction Program (TRiP) is up and running again this year and more successful than ever! This fall is an exciting time as we have added **Hy-Vee** as a vendor. We can hardly keep the cards in stock!



CCA parents and grandparents are buying about \$3,000 per week of Hy-Vee cards and earning 3% on their purchases. That 3% goes directly into an account for your family to use on whatever school fee you want. Tuition, field trips, milk or lunch tickets, whenever you write a check to CCA you can use your TRiP money to pay for those things.

It is so easy to do, just simply purchase your groceries, gas, clothing, gifts and dining out with gift cards instead of paying with cash or checks. If you can get relatives or friends to buy cards on your behalf, you can double your savings!

Make your gift card organization easier with the Card Cubby! Stop by the TRiP office to see our great selection of Card Cubbies available to help you keep all your gift cards organized and easy to access when you shop!



**\$25,000**  
**Matching Gift**

*Every dollar you give will be matched up to \$25,000!*

*Together we can reach the finish line.*

***Don't forget to use the TRiP program for your fall home improvement projects. We regularly have Lowes and Menards cards in stock!***

## High School: Homecoming 2011



Green and white streamers hung from the gymnasium doorway as CCA students and fans sat both inside and outside in the field waiting for the games to begin. This was Homecoming 2011, and the CCA school spirit was strong! "I always thought it would have been nice to see Cornerstone winning its homecoming games," said one student. Well, this year both the soccer and volleyball teams pulled off fantastic victories! .

The soccer team won with a resounding score of eight to two, despite wearing shorts and soccer jerseys in forty-degree weather. The girls' volleyball team won both of the first games in varsity and junior varsity alike. With split-second saves and close scores through the games, (one game ending in a score of twenty-five to twenty-three), victory was a pat on the back for a tired team.

Congratulations to our dedicated and hard-working CCA athletes!

*"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint."*

*Isaiah 40: 31*



## "Se Habla Español" CCA Spanish Program



If you have children who attend CCA, you have probably been hearing about the excitement in our Spanish program. Our CCA Spanish department has begun using a new teaching methodology called TPRS – Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling.

TPRS is a method of second-language acquisition that uses highly-interactive stories to provide understandable and compelling language input and create an atmosphere of immersion in the classroom. We do that by making sure the students understand what we say, repeating key words and phrases so students absorb the grammatical structure, and keeping our stories surprising and interesting. We shelter their vocabulary but not their grammar; we repeatedly emphasize the highest-frequency words, using whatever grammar is necessary to tell the story. No more waiting until the second year of high school to learn the past tense!

CCA Spanish is taught by Señora Kathy Kuschman (7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, Sp I & III), Pastor Rodrigo Azofeifa (½K, K, 1<sup>st</sup>, Sp II, Sp IV Bible study), and Señora Candace Medina (2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, Sp IV language). All three CCA Spanish teachers have now been through at least one TPRS training workshop, and are working hard to hone their skills in this new method. *Gracias* to all our students and (grand!)parents for their enthusiastic support of our program!

## CCA Alumni News

### Love is in the Air for CCA Alumni

#### Megan Crowley Feith—Class of 2009

In May, CCA alum Megan Crowley married to Stephen Feith. Megan graduated in 2009 and attended CCA from kindergarten through 12th grade. Megan worked at the after school program for many years. During her summers “Miss Megan” also worked at CCA’s Summer Camp, along with her future husband “Mr. Stephen.” Megan’s parents have also been a part of the CCA family as her mother, Vickie, was a preschool aide, and her father, Ray, helps with the janitorial work. Keeping with the family connection, Stephen’s mom, Candi Feith, is a CCA preschool aide.



#### Melanie Stafford Dorf—Class of 2009 & Kyle Dorf—Class of 2010

Kyle Dorf married Melanie Safford this past June. “Mr. Kyle” and “Miss Melanie” both started at CCA in elementary school and in later years worked in the after school program and summer camp. Kyle was the Class of 2010 valedictorian. Some may also be familiar with Kyle’s mom, 3rd grade teacher Debbie Dorf.

#### Jake Krupa & Christina Gowen Krupa

With Jake Krupa’s recent return home from Afghanistan his homecoming was even more exciting as he married his CCA sweetheart, Christina Gowen. Both Christina and Jake walked the halls of CCA’s junior high some years ago. Christina’s mother, Jeanne Gowen was also a CCA 1st grade teacher for several years.

#### Jon Lauriat—Class of 2005 & Jenny Stevenson Lauriat

Coming up on their second wedding anniversary are Jonathan Lauriat and Jenny Stevenson, who are yet another couple that met in junior high at CCA. Jon attended CCA from K-12 grades. He was valedictorian of the class of 2005. Jon was very active during his years at CCA. He played soccer and was active in the drama club, yearbook, student council, etc. If there was an activity at CCA, Jon was involved. Since his graduation, he has returned several times to DJ at CCA dances. Jon graduated from U of I Champaign. Jenny is a graduate of Emmaus Bible College. The couple currently lives in Chicago where Jon works as a graphics designer for a marketing company. Jon’s mother Byrle Lauriat has been CCA’s 8th grade teacher for the past 24 years.

We wish all these young couples God’s blessing for a long and healthy marriage.



Calling All CCA Alumni...What have you been up to? We would love to hear news and stories of your life after CCA. Keep in touch! Visit

[www.cornerstonechristianacademy.com](http://www.cornerstonechristianacademy.com)

And click on Alumni and Fans section.

# Cornerstone Christian Academy



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*Administrator/  
Primary Principal*  
**Tom Olmstead**

*Secondary Principal*  
**Drew Whitfield**

*Preschool Director*  
**Debbie Dwyer**



## Our Vision

The vision of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to raise up effective leaders of godly character who will blend academic achievement and biblical truth to influence society for the glory of God.

## Our Mission

The mission of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to provide for each student a comprehensive education, which is based on God's truth, while building stronger relationships among parents, staff and students.

**"No greater joy can I have than this, to hear that my children follow the truth"**  
**3 John 1:4**

*Fulfilling His Vision*

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