

July 2009

Dear Tree of Life Parents,

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year!

Our theme for this year is **CHRIST IN YOU, THE HOPE OF GLORY**. As we continue to focus on spiritual formation in the lives of our students, we know that the only way to find true hope for this life and the next is Jesus Christ.

At a time when hope is packaged in stimulus plans and pursued in government leaders, we are able to proclaim that “Our Hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness.” Several years ago, we surveyed our juniors and seniors. Many of them noted that they felt a sense of hopelessness about the future. No doubt our current cultural malaise is only escalating this feeling.

In Colossians 1:27-29, the apostle Paul reveals a mystery hidden for generations to the Gentiles, “...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”

Isn’t this a beautiful description of what we do everyday at Tree?

I look forward to all God will teach us about this passage in the months ahead. To Him be all glory.

#### **FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS**

Once again, we are humbled by God’s goodness in sending us faculty and staff who love Him and are equipped to carry out the roles He has prepared for them in the days ahead.

**Linda Boulos** will be joining the Northridge faculty to teach high school biology, anatomy, etc. She loves teaching and already knows much about Tree. She is a Tree of Life parent and also served as a long-term substitute for Mrs. Forgrave this past school year. Fluent in French, Linda served many years as a missionary in Zaire, where she taught high school biology.

**Kathy Hunt** will be teaching elementary art for grades 1-5 this fall. Kathy has taught art for 15 years in two different Christian schools and brings enthusiasm for her subject and love for her students to the classroom.

**Laurie Ihlenfield** comes to Tree this fall to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade art. A recent graduate of CCAD and a Tree of Life parent, Laurie is excited to be a part of the art department at the middle school level.

**Kari Lee** will be joining the Indianola faculty as an Intervention Specialist. Kari has served in this capacity for five years in public schools and is excited to come to Tree. She has much experience working with children with learning difficulties and brings enthusiasm and love to them and their parents. She and her husband, Jeff (a Tree alum!) have 4 children, 2 of whom are school age and will be at Indianola next year.

**Bethani Shonkwiler** will be teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade this school year. Bethani graduated from Tree of Life in 2005 and just recently completed her education degree from Kentucky Christian University, specializing in middle school Social Studies and Math. She knows well the essence of Tree and looks forward to returning here as a teacher, eager to help mold young lives for Christ.

**Mary Winkler** will also be one of our new 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Mary has taught in Christian schools for 19 years, primarily in the upper elementary grades. She and her husband, Mark, are sending their 2 teenagers to Tree of Life this fall. Mary comes highly recommended as a teacher who genuinely loves her students and cultivates a learning atmosphere of high expectations.

#### **PICTURE DAY/SCHEDULES FOR NORTHRIDGE STUDENTS - Wednesday, August 26**

On Wednesday, August 26 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon, the day before school begins, students in grades 6-12 may have their school picture taken in the auditorium, either in or out of uniform. School pictures will also be taken **in uniform only** on September 17. Also, on August 26 from 9:00 – 12:00 noon, students in grades 7-12 may make changes to their schedules. In addition, fall sports pictures will be taken on Aug. 26. Team members will receive more detailed information.

#### **NORTHRIDGE “CALL TO PRAYER”/ORIENTATION - Monday, August 24**

##### **Grade 6**

Cookout 5:00 pm  
“Call to Prayer” 7:00 pm  
Orientation 7:30 pm

##### **Grades 7-12**

New Student Orientation 6:00 pm  
“Call to Prayer” 7:00 pm

#### **ELEMENTARY PARENT-TEACHER NIGHT – Tuesday, August 25**

Our Parent-Teacher Night for kindergarten through fifth grade will be held on Tuesday, August 25 at 7:00 pm at the Dublin and Indianola branches. The evening will provide an opportunity for prayer and for you, as parents, to meet with your children’s teacher prior to the first day of school. More information about this evening will be sent to you in August.

#### **NORTHRIDGE PARENT-TEACHER NIGHT (Grades 7-12) - Thursday, Sept. 10**

Please reserve Thursday, September 10 from 6:45 – 9:00 pm as an evening to meet with your children’s teachers. More information about this evening will be sent to you in August.

#### **“GROWING FOR HIS GLORY” - Comprehensive Capital Campaign**

We continue to simultaneously “Work, Wait and Worship” as plans unfold for the future location of our preschool through grade 12 Tree of Life campus.

**Work**---We praise God that we are in formal contract negotiations with Time-Warner/AOL (5000 Arlington Center Blvd, Columbus, 43220). Once a contract is in place, we can begin the re-zoning application process with Upper Arlington. We are also working with Wandel & Schnell Architects

on plans for retrofitting this facility, should it become ours. Our campaign steering committee is meeting regularly and working hard in various facets of the campaign!

As most of you know, our feasibility study showed, that with hard work and by God's grace, we should be able to raise \$2,000,000 at the grassroots level of our constituency. To-date, we have received 41 gifts and/or pledges of \$796,000 toward this goal. We continue to marvel at the generosity of God's people, even in these hard economic times.

This year's Evergreen Evening will launch the public phase of the campaign. Lord willing, we hope to share more details then!

**Wait**---One thing God is teaching all of us is to wait on His timing. So often, when we've been tempted to run ahead or want a quick solution, He has shown us the benefit of trusting Him in the timing of each phase of this entire venture.

**Worship**---This school year marks the 32<sup>nd</sup> year for Tree of Life Christian Schools. Having been with the school since its inception, I marvel at the faithful mercies and amazing grace of our great God. To Him alone belongs all glory as we continue to worship Him. We indeed are "growing for HIS glory".

### **EVERGREEN EVENING - Friday, October 23**

Please plan to come to our annual Evergreen Evening on Friday, October 23 at 7:00 pm. This year's format is entirely new! We will gather as a school community at Worthington Christian Church for an evening of worship, inspiration and sharing. A dessert reception will follow the program.

Dr. Brian Simmons, newly appointed president of the Association of Christian Schools International, will join us as we celebrate God's vision for this generation to find hope in Jesus Christ.

Please save this date! A formal invitation will be mailed this fall.

### **HANDBOOK AND CALENDAR**

Please review the enclosed revised addenda to Tree of Life's Student-Parent Handbook. Also enclosed is an updated 2009-2010 school year calendar.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Information from this mailing can be found on the TOL website's "Back-to-School" link.

I am hopeful that the enclosed information is helpful as you prepare for our first day of school on August 27. As you enjoy the remainder of the summer may you be filled with an unshakeable hope that comes from Christ alone. I join you with great expectation in seeing what He will accomplish in our midst this year.

By His Grace,



Lezlee J. Knowles  
Superintendent

