



The Matz family includes Scott, Tracy, Scott, and Holly and Brandon Blank.

## A Legacy of Thanksgiving

*"We are so thankful for the work being done for the kingdom of God . . ."*

### By Tracy Matz

I remember my daughter coming home from her first day of Mrs. DeGroot's Kindergarten class, back in 1995, at Valley Christian School. It seems just like yesterday that she was carrying a coloring picture of Jesus with children gathered around. Her coloring page had the Bible verse Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We feel blessed that Valley Christian School taught our two children to follow the TRUTH and imprinted the Word of God on their hearts. It is encouraging to see the beautiful lives of children

that teachers at VCS affect every day.

My husband and I didn't grow up studying the Word of God. We both had divorced parents and therefore never saw a good example of a family. We desired to raise our children in a Christian environment and decided to send our children to Valley Christian School. Through our thirteen years at Valley we experienced relationships with families and teachers that will never be replaced.

The Valley Christian family had God's perspective and God's vision on how to live life and treat others. Their responses, actions, and words of life were encouraging.

My husband and I continue to support

Valley Christian because of what the school is doing for the kingdom of God. Valley Christian School glorifies God by teaching high academics but most importantly teaching how to rely and see God in all circumstances, even sports.

VCS is forming Godly pre-adults who will be disciples in ministry and in the work place, and young adults who stand for the importance of family values. We are so thankful for the work being done for the kingdom of God and the extension of LOVE that was given to our family and children. Thank you Valley Christian School for touching our lives and the lives of our future generation!



# Real Thankfulness . . .



I am thankful I  
get to play with  
my friends at  
school.  
--Amari



I am thankful for  
good Christian  
friends & teachers  
that sacrifice their  
time.  
--Rebecca

I am thankful for  
books, swings,  
hard math, tests  
& art.  
--Alexis



I am thankful for  
teachers that  
want you to get a  
good education.  
--Caden



I am thankful for  
math.  
--Zachary



I am thankful I get  
to be with my  
friends & that  
Lydia is in my  
class.  
--Lanessa

I am thankful for  
the new art room  
tables & shelves.  
--Alisha



I'm glad for math  
and homework.  
--Noah



I am thankful for the  
Christian environment  
at VCS (friends,  
curriculum & teachers)  
it has helped me grow  
in my walk with Christ.  
--Christopher



I am thankful for  
lunch & friends.  
--Ashlyn

*"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Col. 2:6-7*



# ... the Legacy Continues

## Karl Bretz - Class of 2004

I moved to Seattle to attend Seattle Pacific University upon graduating from VCS. After obtaining my degree in electrical engineering I stayed in Seattle and am currently working as a system performance engineer for Verizon Wireless. I attend a local church in the Bellevue area (Blue Sky Church) and am very involved in my small group. I loved the small, Christian community at Valley Christian and the ability to get to know the teachers on such a personal level. I absolutely loved being in class with so many of my friends every day. While many consider high school a time to be forgotten, I cherish my memories of Valley (particularly soccer during senior year) and the life-long friends I made during my years there.



## Meaghan Moore Maki - Class of 2009

In May 2013 I graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science degree in Middle Eastern history and a minor in Arabic. I also received my commission as a Lieutenant in the US Air Force, and am currently serving at Davis Monthan Air Force base in Tucson. A week and a half after I graduated, I got married to a West Point graduate, Kahlan Maki. I graduated in the top 15% of my class at the Academy and received my first choice job, as a Logistics Readiness Officer. We have joined a small church and it has provided a great base for us as we go to work every day. I can't thank God enough for putting Valley Christian into my life. It provided me with such an amazing foundation in God's word and the knowledge of how to solve problems in a Christ-like way. Going through the Academy was a great but tough experience

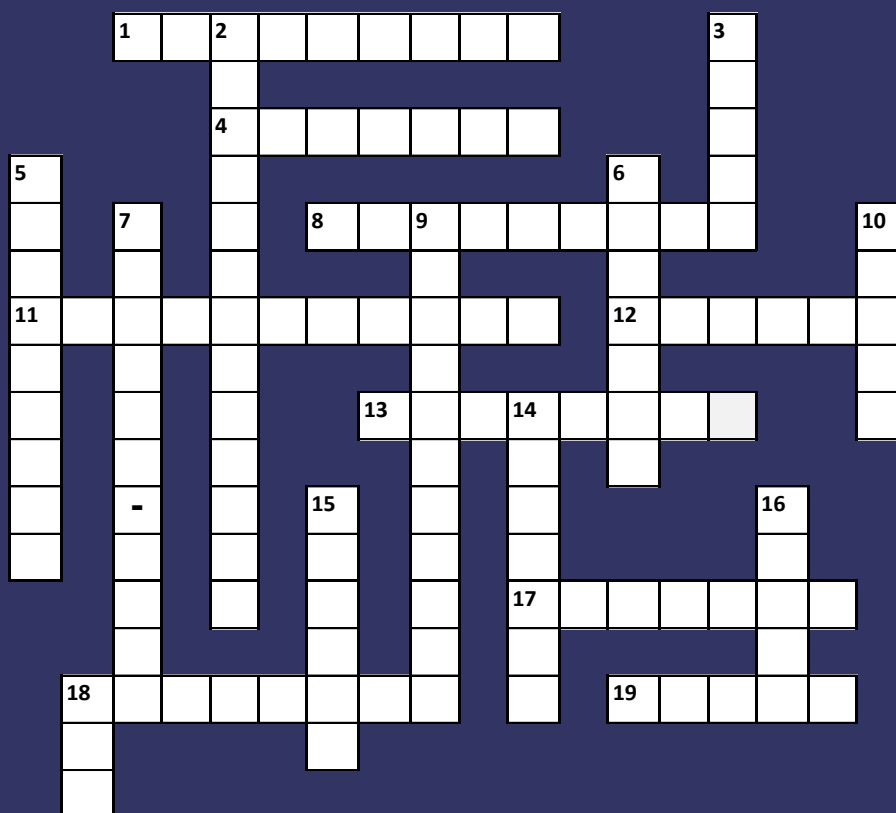
and I know I wouldn't have come out of it the same person without God working in my life. The solid Christian friends I made at Valley are still a part of my life today. Everyone says after you graduate high school, you move on and make new friends, which is true, but I have also kept strong friends who give me good perspective and advice to this day. I am very thankful for the solid Biblical education I received at Valley Christian School; it has served me well throughout college and now through my active duty career.

## Grace Palmer - Class of 2007

I graduated from UM with a BFA/Music in 2010. I studied abroad twice, the second time with the Music Department in Vienna for 5 weeks. The Germany 2004 trip that I took with Mrs. Clawson started my love of traveling. My education at VCS prepared me well for college; I'm thankful for the music program and the band tours I was part of. I became certified in Literary Braille Transcription in 2012, and am now a Sensory Communication Facilitator for Billings Public Schools. My job includes teaching Braille, transcribing, and encouraging independence through adaptive daily living skills. I am also studying to become certified in Braille music and math, and want to continue helping the visually impaired through Braille and other means.



# Attitude of Gratitude



## Across:

- 1 662 of these since 1989 at VCS.  
 4 Academically, 41 \_\_\_\_ are offered in the high school.  
 8 "More sound per pound than any band in the land" with 57 of these.  
 11 English Standard Version is used by the High School for memorizing this book of the Bible, \_\_\_\_.  
 12 If (or when) technology malfunctions, see \_\_\_\_.  
 13 234 walk through the doors daily (enrolled anyway).  
 17 The VCS Prayer Team meets on this day of the week.  
 18 This prime number, 29, represents prime personnel called \_\_\_\_.  
 19 Maxed at 24 students, this grade is Number 1!

## Down:

- 2 VCS has met the Montana Office of Public Instruction re-

quirements to receive its state-recognized \_\_\_\_.

- 3 11,000 of these wait in the library, ready for reading.  
 5 The technology age captured us with 104 of these on campus.  
 6 115 of these spots exist on VCS property for "moto"-vation.  
 7 1979 started a \_\_\_\_-year tradition of Christian education at VCS.  
 9 Both VCS computer labs are styling smart with these \_\_\_\_.  
 10 Elementary students gobble up \_\_\_\_ in this 25 minute break.  
 14 Alternative education courses are linked by the Montana \_\_\_\_ Academy.  
 15 Do the math: 29 teachers with cumulative experience of 321 years teaching at VCS = \_\_\_\_ average years of service/teacher.  
 16 Competing in MHSA music & sports, our \_\_\_\_ is C.  
 18 "Move it, move it!" in this number of high school team



# From Generation To Generation

*Brent Reimer: VCS Alum - Teacher - Parent*

I am a '95 graduate of Valley Christian School. My beautiful wife, Melisa, is a '99 graduate of VCS. We were married in 2002 and now have three blessings (boys) all of whom

attend VCS. I am currently a Junior High teacher at VCS as well.



First Grade

As I am writing this, I can't express adequately how thankful I am to the Lord for the blessing of Valley Christian I had growing up and now continue to have for my children. I want to thank my parents for recognizing the importance of a Jesus-centered education through those early formidable years. Mom and Dad understood God's instruction to the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:6-9 and Deuteronomy 11:19-20 to keep God's Word continually being taught to their children wherever they were. I am so thankful that VCS instilled, and continues to instill, God's Word in every venue of life whether it be education, discipline, sports, or any other extra-curricular activities.

As a student, I remember many of my teachers who not only taught me about God and His Word, but more importantly showed me the love of God and His tender heart toward me through their kind words, patience, and counsel. One example of this was in my 6<sup>th</sup> grade year when my teacher spent countless hours helping me build a sock puppet for a play that we were putting on. I think that I exasperated her with my lack of understanding (it took a very high IQ), but one morning I came to school finding my puppet done for me. My teacher never said a word about it – but I am quite sure that it wasn't the highest priority or desire on her list, yet she did it so graciously for me. Another example, in high school, was a teacher who opened his home to me and my friends often for games and fellowship. We always felt that he really cared about us as students and we could come to him for counsel and advice. It is rare for a teacher to do this, but he had such a positive impact on

my life, in and outside of the classroom.

Beyond the parents, I can't think of a more important influence in children's lives than that of their teachers. I am so grateful to my teachers from VCS and the impact they had in reinforcing the Godly values I was learning at home.

As a parent, I have seen the same traits in the teachers that I respected as a student, and now I have a deeper appreciation for the way they influence my children's lives. We have been so blessed to see the "one voice model" implemented in our children's classrooms.

Last year, we watched our 1<sup>st</sup> grader (Preston) transform before our eyes into a responsible young man whose growing knowledge of his Savior was due in great part to the diligence of his teacher to teach and model God's Word.

This year, we watched as his 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher so lovingly led the class in singing "Happy Birthday" to him on his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday. What blessed my wife and me, was that not only did she celebrate (with the class) his physical birth into our earthly family, but also rejoiced and celebrated his spiritual birth into his

heavenly family.

On numerous occasions our kindergarten son, Tyson, has come home, so excited to share with us the Bible stories he has learned in class. And, of course, our three boys are constantly hiding God's Word in their hearts through Bible memory in each class. These are things that have made Valley so special and unique to us. No words can describe how grateful we are to these teachers for taking the most precious gift we have been given, our children, and continuing to model for them what we strive to instill in their hearts at home.

As a teacher, the most exciting part of my job is seeing students grow in their walk with Jesus. I have even had the awesome opportunity of leading a couple of students to a personal relationship with Jesus over the years. My hope and prayer is that I have an impact on students' lives far beyond the classroom.

Thank you Lord Jesus for Valley Christian School and its impact on my life and the lives of countless others.

**In Christ,  
Brent**



Third Grade



# God's Preeminence is the Foundation

## Thankful for Christian Education

**By Chris Martineau  
Superintendent**

I am thankful for Christian education because I have the privilege to be a part of a school which **cultivates all dimensions of the student**. What I mean is that the Christian school community cares as much about a student's soul as they do about his academic and physical well-being! Yes, a rigorous curriculum remains important, but we are determined to convey to our students that this entire world of study is God's world, and that God greatly values each student.

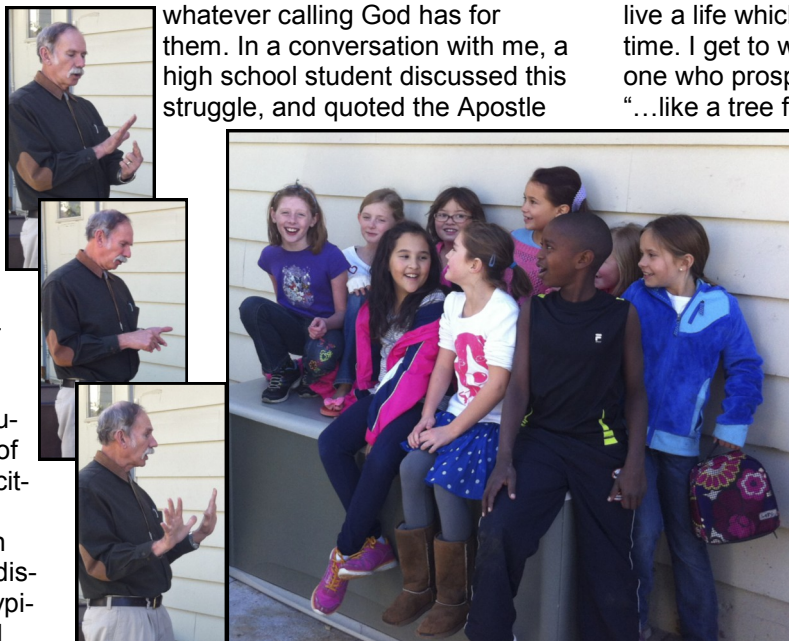
I am thankful for Christian education because with **God's preeminence as the foundation**, I get to observe each student's unique God-given talents flourish as he grows. Whether it is in the realm of visual arts, music, speech, sports or computational skills, the variety and depth of what God has given us is indeed exciting. For instance, recently we had a high school student develop her own photography business with website displaying professionalism and a skill typically found only by more established people!

I am thankful for Christian education because I get to see students become less concerned about themselves, and more **concerned about the well-being of others**. Students who learn to walk confidently in who they are- not self-confidence, but a God confidence- free themselves from the bondage of worrying about what others think, and instead release themselves to fulfill whatever calling God has for them. In a conversation with me, a high school student discussed this struggle, and quoted the Apostle

Paul: "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me..." (Gal 2:20). Well stated, teen, if only more *adults* would get this right!

I am thankful for Christian education because I witness **acts of redemption** each time there is conflict among the VCS family- as teachers guide and advise students on how to forgive, serve, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to live a life which develops His fruit in His time. I get to witness each student as one who prospers in whatever he does, "...like a tree firmly planted by streams of water..." (Psalm 1).

Lastly, I am thankful for Christian education as I oversee a community of believers that holds dear the priceless and critical importance in **bringing up our children to know God** and all the work He has done for us.



A not-so-serious counting lesson resulting in 19 fingers! How's that?

**Academic Excellence  
+ Biblical Worldview  
Education for Eternity**

# Thank You for Sowing into the Kingdom

As a supporter of Valley Christian School, you are a very vital and necessary part of the ministry that takes place here every day! It is through your prayers and financial support that we are able to continue to offer our students an excellent academic education with a strong Biblical worldview.

Since we do not receive any government funding; we still have the freedom to openly use the Bible as the

foundation for our entire curriculum, really our very existence. It is through your generous support that our teachers are able to minister to the whole child (academically, physically, and spiritually).

By supporting Valley Christian School, you are providing parents with a safe learning environment in which we understand the importance of children receiving the same message at school that they are receiving in their

Christian homes; thus, creating a partnership with parents who desire to raise their children in the ways of the Lord.

As you invest in Valley Christian School, you are sowing into the next generation; you are touching the lives of our students for the kingdom of God - students, who will one day be adults, impacting our world for Christ.

Thank you for making an eternal difference!

Puzzle Answers: 1 Graduates; 2 Accreditation; 3 Books; 4 Classes; 5 Computers; 6 Parking; 7 Thirty-five; 8 Musicians; 9 Smartboards; 10 Lunch; 11 Philippians; 12 Keaton; 13 Students; 14 Digital; 15 Eleven; 16 Class; 17 Tuesdays; 18 across, Teachers; 18 down, Ten; 19 First