



IMPACT

Fall 2015, Volume 5, Issue 2

Impacting Lives for Eternity



Missoulian

Speltz column: Valley Christian has budding six-man sensation

October 03, 2015 4:30 pm

The winningest high school football team in Missoula rides 30 miles on a bus to reach its home field.

This humble bunch didn't even have uniforms until Aug. 19. The coach is an unassuming pastor and the roster is down to 11 names because of attrition.

But just like the six-man game they play, the Valley Christian Eagles are sandlot sweet. As in four wins in five games.

(Cont'd. p.2)

Six-Man Sensation (cont'd.)

OK, ok, so there's still room for improvement after a narrow 83-0 setback at the hands of perennial power Hot Springs on Friday. But these Eagles have made a mountain of progress since that first day of practice.

"It was kind of a funny thing," head coach Shane Sander recalled. "We started up and within 10 minutes I had three guys throwing up."

"I remember our athletic director came by and he was like, 'Gosh Coach, we can't afford to lose any!' But we were just doing warm-ups, just the prelude to stretching."

Ah, the exuberance of youth. So excited and nervous were these chaps that they couldn't keep from tossing their cookies.

I'd probably be that excited too if I had the chance to play 6-man instead of the traditional 11-man. Imagine, every guy can go out for a pass. No all-time blockers. No 6-3 final scores.

"I like how much flexibility you have," said Sander, who buses his crew all the way to Albion for home games. "Now I watch 11-man football and it's like, man, there's a lot of wasted

bodies out there."

"It looks so much more complicated. Six-man has a simplicity to it that I like. You can do anything. We've seen all kinds of stuff, like four receivers bunched up against the sideline, hand-off to the guard, just crazy stuff."

Sander, who not only runs the show but helped design the uniforms and order equipment, might've never guessed his team would be 4-1. Not after some of the flaws that were revealed when his team took the field for the first time at West Yellowstone.

"I remember I was helping guys understand just basic stuff like pass coverage and how to tackle," he recalled. "I think we had several tackles in that game where guys would just grab somebody from behind and yank them backwards because that was all they knew to do -- borderline horse collar, but not quite."

Despite a lack of experience, the Eagles have mostly soared by staying cohesive and playing with heart. They're good friends at school, some are close chums on the basketball team and the

camaraderie is palpable. What a terrific example for every prep team, regardless of the level.

"In three of the first four games there was a point where it would have been easy for them to start yelling at each other, get down on each other, and yet they just hung together," Sander said. "I've never seen any of our guys getting mad at each other. They just keep pushing on together."

Sander, who played 8-man football as a prep in Superior, has enjoyed the low-pressure aspect of Valley Christian's inaugural season. No parents getting up in his grill, plus the fan support has been pretty decent considering the Eagles never play in Missoula.

Copyright 2015 missoulia.com. All rights reserved. Used with permission.



The Value of a Christian Education

By Jeremy & Kim Dierking

We were classmates through high school and graduated from Valley Christian School in 1998. We started dating our senior year, were married in 2000, and by the grace of God welcomed a baby girl in 2002, Mackenzie Taylor.

The strong academic program at VCS enabled me to secure multiple college grants and scholarships and prepared me for a rigorous engineering degree program. The biblically based education we received at VCS provided a strong foundation for keeping us grounded in our faith as we ventured into the world of secular college education and the workforce while balancing a new marriage and parenthood and navigating through some foolish decisions and personal struggles in our 20s.

Where to send Mackenzie for education was never a question in our minds. We knew from day one, that if we lived in the Missoula area, we would do whatever it took for her to attend VCS.

As parents and stewards of the Lord's gift of children, we are called to bring our children up in

discipline and instruction of the Lord (Eph. 6:4), and we believe this applies to all areas of life.

We firmly adhere to the 'One Voice Model' in which children hear the same biblical worldview taught at home, at church, and in school. A child spends 7 hours per day, 5 days per week in school for 13 years, and that education can be a significant



influence on their worldview. There is no middle ground regarding education (or any other issue) because there is no place between faithfulness to

God and submission to a secular education system that denies, excludes, and replaces God.

The financial sacrifice of Christian education is insignificant compared to the lifelong and eternal blessings of consistently teaching our children the grace and joy of faithfully following Christ and how that shapes our worldview.

As alumni, it is a special blessing to walk with our daughter Mackenzie through the same halls we grew up in, share our stories and experiences, and watch her represent the Eagles on the playing field. We take comfort in knowing she will be amply prepared for higher education and a career after high school.

The current events of our culture only affirm our conviction of the importance of biblical worldview education. As parents, we are glad partners with our fellow parents and the VCS staff in serving Christ and the mission of Valley Christian

School with the goal of raising up children to be disciples of Christ and shine the truth of the gospel in our community and the world.

The Principal Perspectives

“Who Has Had an Impact on Your Life?”



By Cheryl Nurse,
Elementary Principal

I recently had the privilege of reconnecting with the couple who led me to the Lord 35 years ago. I was 17 years old and had recently been hired as a counselor for a Salvation Army summer camp program. Even at such a young age, I knew right away that I wanted to be a teacher. Little did I know that God was calling me to Christian Education.

I spent the summer playing games, swimming, doing arts & crafts, and going on field trips. But, the one area that stands out even to this day was our chapel time.

Chapel was more than just a time when we sang songs and shared Bible stories. It was an opportunity for the campers to hear the Salvation message. This was a message that was new to me, because I did not know that I could have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ by asking Him into my heart. I approached my leaders, Ken and Debi Dove, and asked that question “What do I have to do to be saved?” It was that moment that they knelt down and prayed with me as I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Savior.

They remembered clearly every detail of that day as well. I’m

thankful that God gave me an opportunity to not only thank them for having an impact on my life, but also on the lives of over 500 students who have passed through my classroom.

As I begin my 24th year as a Christian educator, and now elementary principal, I am reminded of God’s calling as well as our purpose here at Valley Christian School. Our purpose is to provide an excellent academic education in a Christian environment. As your principal, I am committed to making sure “...that in all things He might have the preeminence.” Colossians 1:18



The Principal Perspectives To Tell the Truth



By Jon Hawkins,
JH/HS Principal

Our school's motto is "Academic excellence plus a biblical worldview equals education for eternity." That idea has become much more important to me these past three months.

In August I began a year-long program to acquire my masters in educational leadership. In the required reading for this program I have often run across the worldview that "there is no absolute truth."

In one book, Conscious Discipline, Dr. Becky Bailey makes the statement "modern physics yields two profound truths that impact the way we define ourselves and each other. The first of these is the idea that

there is no objective truth out there. We give value and meaning to situations based on our past experiences and beliefs".

Unfortunately this idea is becoming common in much of modern education. If

followed to its logical conclusion it eliminates all standards, morals, and biblical authority relegating them to personal convictions.

As Christians we must be vigilant to teach our children from a biblical worldview which maintains that there is absolute truth and that truth is found in

Jesus and his Word. In John 14:6 Jesus states, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

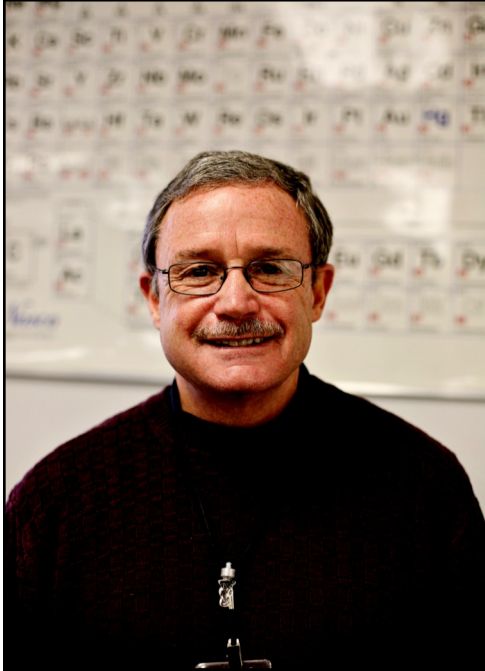
In speaking to Pilate Jesus says, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth, everyone on the side of truth listens to me." (John 18:37 NIV) Concerning the Scriptures Jesus says, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

In order for education to have a proper foundation it must be built on the truth of Jesus and The Word. The Word is the fixed mark from which all education (and life) should emanate.



Staff Spotlight

A Man of Life



Mr. Norberg has been a teacher at VCS for 29 years and continues to pass along his love of the "Author of Life" (Acts 3:15) through his science classes. He teaches Biochemistry because it "... explores the wonderful and complex world within a living cell. This is a world that displays God's marvelous creative design that directs all living things."

Jeff's wife Laurie recently began referring to him as a sexagenarian (you mathematicians know this word!).

They have two sons and a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter, Nora, who joined the Norberg family this summer.

A few years ago, a hummingbird wintered near his house and earned the name, Frosty. He and Laurie diligently kept unfrozen syrup in the feeder. One particularly cold day, he left school at lunch to go feed Frosty in Lolo, resulting in his class needing a substitute until he returned. Frosty was the recipient of life-giving sustenance from a man who walks the talk.

What do we know about Mr. Norberg?

- "No teacher is as consistent as Mr. Norberg."
- "If you pay attention you'll catch his jokes."
- "The Powerpoint master."
- "Fact filled."
- "He is a mountain goat of a man, so be warned to never go on a hike with him, because 'easy' means super steep and he doesn't even break a sweat."

So it fits that his greatest passion is the study of life. This is the Mr. Norberg we know and depend on.

He loves movies with ski dogs
He loves to take mountain jogs
He loves the outdoors
He likes to eat s'mores
He loves to dissect those frogs.
By Trey Christiaens

Mr. Norberg, a science man
Likes the wild; an outside fan
A teacher of many
Giving notes o' plenty
In soccer, with great battle plans.
By Ben Tuinstra

He reads the man book with reason
Not a big fan of any treason
Eats chicken pot pie
Skis at Big Sky
Ready in and out of season.
By Zach Baugher

Norberg is a great teacher
In science he's not a preacher
His tests are quite easy
And he isn't queasy
While dissecting any odd creature.
By Casey Reimer

Mr. Norberg is a good science teacher
You might think he is a good preacher
His symbol is No
He likes the snow
He lectures about every creature.
By Josie Cross

From The Bleachers



By Rory Christiaens
JH/HS Athletic Director

The beginning of the school year and the 2015 fall sports season has been one filled with many first time events, much excitement and unprecedented success for the Eagle Athletic programs.

Half way through the regular season, new Head Coach Janie Taylor and her Lady Eagles are 7-0 and sitting at the top of the District 13-C standings. The Lady Eagles are led by a trio of juniors who are supported by a host of younger players, including a sophomore, two freshman and three 8th graders. Coach Taylor is optimistic for a good outcome for the rest

of the season, hoping this year's Lady Eagles may be the first team in school history to qualify for the state tournament. With the youth and success they have had early this season the outlook for the long term success of the volleyball program is excellent.

This fall Valley Christian enters its 2nd year of a three-year soccer co-op with Loyola. This year VCS has two boys playing soccer (no girls went out). The VCS/LSH Rams are off to a nice start in conference. Valley Christian Senior, Andrew Lichte's move to midfield has powered the Ram attack and has them in position to qualify for the State Class A playoffs for the 1st time in several years. At the



time of this report the VCS/LSH squad has secured 2nd place in the Southern A Conference and will travel either to Libby or Columbia Falls for a 1st round dual this coming weekend!

Even though they are in their inaugural season, Coach Shane Sander's gridiron gang has found similar success. His Eagles are tied with perennial

power Hot Springs at the top of the Western C 6-Man Football standings with matching 4-0 records. Senior captain Jacob Dargan and junior Joey Lodine lead the Eagles defensively while junior Colton Becker paces the offense with 24 total touchdowns (17 rushing and 7 passing) in just four games.

Coach Sander and the Eagles enter the second half of their season riding a lot of momentum and can secure a home playoff game with two more wins.

The success of the volleyball and football teams has produced a lot of enthusiasm and excitement throughout the school and the Valley Christian Community. In addition, this month the school and the athletic department have released a couple of new sports logos and is launching a new "Eagle Gear" campaign. The school has kept the traditional crest that has been associated with Valley Christian for years, but the addition of the new sports logos combined with the early season success of our student-athletes in and out of the arena of competition make it a great time to be an Eagle!!



Plan for Victory!



By Janelle Taberna,
Admissions Director

In Mark 13, Jesus warned His disciples that in the end times, there will be wars and rumor of wars; there will be great earthquakes and famine. He goes on to say that many will be deceived and led astray from their faith. It is hard to read those words and not think about what is happening in our world today.

Some studies show that 50-60% of youth are leaving their faith in college. In his recent book*, Bradley R.E. Wright finds that

the parents of students who did NOT leave the church emphasized religion twice as much as those parents whose children who did leave the church.

This statistic should alert Christian parents.

So what can we do about it? We can give our children every possible opportunity to hear, watch & practice what the Bible tells us.

At VCS, we are partnering with churches & parents to do just that! More and more parents are seeing the deprivation of the world around us and are seeking help to keep their children founded in Christ.

We are so thankful to The Lord that He has allowed us to be a part of the solution! Enrollment has grown another 10% this year with new inquiries often. God is faithfully blessing VCS and the families involved. Please continue to pray for God's wisdom & provision to best serve local Christian families.



*Christians Are Hate-Filled Hypocrites...and Other Lies You've Been Told: A Sociologist Shatters Myths From the Secular and Christian Media (2010), Bradley R.E. Wright

Looking Ahead

Valley Christian School presents:



November 16th & 17th 2 pm & 7 pm

VCS Gymnasium

Faith Challenge Celebration

T.C. Stallings (War Room),
Guest Speaker



FOR YOU ARE MY
ROCK
AND MY
FORTRESS
AND FOR YOUR
NAME'S SAKE YOU
LEAD
& GUIDE ME
PSALM 31:3

Michael Jr.

Concert

Monday

March 14th

6:30 pm

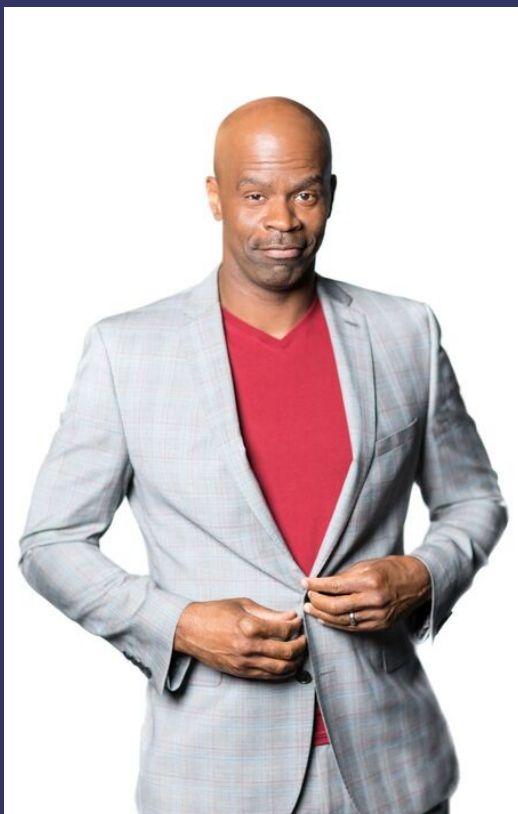
Contact

VCS

For

Tickets

\$20



Graduation
May 22nd

Class of 2016

Guest Speaker: Greg Eide,
Corban College AD

