

Class of 2017: EL17E

When this group of graduates was born, Y2K had not ended the world, Survivor referred to a TV show, and a Bush was the president.

When these 2017 Grads started kindergarten, VCS had graduated 43 seniors that spring.

And of those graduates four have children now attending VCS.

The world changes, cultures adapt, words gain additional meanings, and new challenges face God's people.

But, as all VCS graduates

have been taught, God remains the same and commands us to "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

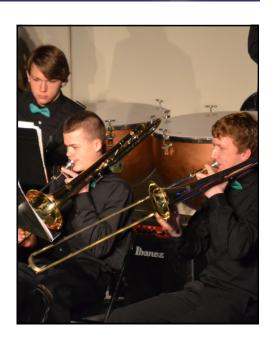
Joshua 1:9

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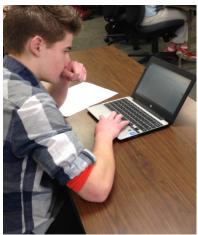
Chromebooks Stepping into Technology's Fast Track

The Parent Teacher Fellowship at VCS purchased 30 Chromebooks (laptop-looking computers that are so Google-friendly you'll be tempted to let them work without you!) for the high school building and 30 more Chromebooks for the elementary building. These new computers are housed in carts that are plugged in each evening to recharge, then are ready to roam freely to individual classrooms throughout the day as teachers integrate computer-based learning.

And what is the computerbased learning? In 3rd grade it involves Legos and robotics (see article page 6). In Government the seniors used the Chromebooks to showcase their senior projects during class and again at Graduation. In Business Technology the students learn to collaborate and use Google software like docs, sheets, slides, & drawing. In junior high study halls, the students are busy investigating science and history. This is simply a snapshot.

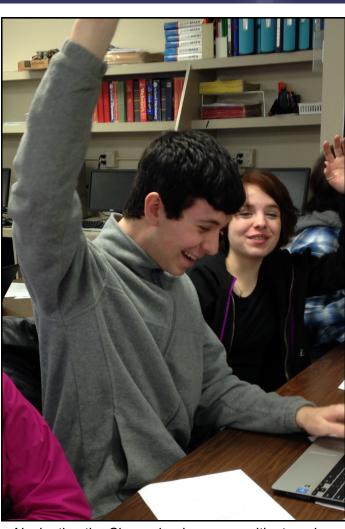


All 30 cords hang neatly in the back and plug into a power strip that draws from one heavy duty cord out of the ChromeCart.



Learning a new system is good for brain calisthenics.

Thank you, PTF, for this wonderful blessing, especially as our outdated Microsoft lab is continually refusing to play nice when it comes to software and operating systems and updates and . . . !



Navigating the Chromebooks comes with struggles and victories.



Little hands and big hands find these wireless tools quite handy.

Physics Class In the Snow

By Greger Johnson Yearbook Staff

This winter the 9th grade Science class went on a field trip to the Country Club Golf Course for a physics lab experiment. We brought our snow clothes and sleds, and recorded the weight of the student, and the time it took to travel the distance marked.

The purpose of the experiment was to find the most efficient sledding hill and sled. The height of the hill was determined using GPS. We used a tape measure to mark the

length of the hill. The ride lasted 5-6 seconds with a push and over 6 seconds without one. We made several runs and finally determined that the heavier riders were slower, possibly due to friction and other variables.

After the majority of the students had finished their labs, a few students decided to have some more fun and build a jump. It didn't work

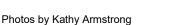
very well
(as in it
didn't work
at all).
Afterwards,
we all had
some very
effective
hot
chocolate.







The cool sleds were as memorable as the experiment.





Science is truly this much fun!

3rd Grade Extravaganzas New & Traditional

By 3rd Grade Teachers: Rachael Terrill, Mary Hiltz, & Greg Lee

This year 3rd grade had the opportunity to integrate LEGO robotics into their everyday

learning.
The students are learning how to use technology and engineering more effectively while improving and developing their



ration and communication.

They went out of the classroom to see how these learned skills are being used in jobs in their own community; drones on the job and bomb squad robots. These projects have allowed stu-



We just finished our robotics unit on frog metamorphosis!

This is the tadpole stage.

dents to engage in team building and learn in a new, exciting way.

For over 30 years 3rd grade has taken part in a multicultural project better know as Food Fair. Each student picked a country of interest to study and as a class they took "a tour of learning" into eight or more countries. Through the history, geography, clothing, food, religion, and weather of each country, students immersed themselves in other cultures. They spent much time construct-

ing a lap book to present and

preparing a grand presentation for the VCS family in May.



They decorated a table, dressed in traditional clothing, and made food representing their country so that others could learn from them what they had learned about their chosen

country.

Ask any student, present or former, and Food Fair will be remembered fondly as a great learning experience.





Science Fair Success Our 8th Graders' Presentations

By Kelsey Loveall Science Teacher

Science Fair is a hard-earned celebration and exposition where my 8th grade Earth and Space Science students get to show off their research, their experiments, and their oral presentations about the science experiment of their choice. This day is the culmination of a lot of work. It is extremely exhausting, and in the end (hopefully) rewarding!

(Biological and Physical Sciences) were selected and ribbons proudly presented.

The rest of the day consisted of doing presentation after presentation for parents, visitors, teachers, and every



Biological Science Second Place: Amelia Kim & Katie Fuller, Bio Third Place: Lanessa Gedney, Bio First Place: Micah McCloy, Physical Science First Place: Venn Doxey

Keila Rumpf knows about hot air balloons and is happy to explain the intricacies.

We began the day with the students presenting in front of our well-qualified and kind-hearted judges who listen, ask questions, critique, and celebrate the successes of each student.

Following each student's presentation, the judges deliberated, and winners for each category

first for the judges, and then later in the day for kindergarten and first grade students a difficult task, they quickly discovered!

dents were

oral presen-

tations

they to learned to tailor their

Overall, Valley Christian's Science Fair was a wonderful day. Our 8th grade students show-

cased their hard work and were single grade pushed out of their oral presenlevel and class tation comfort zones, while the of elementary rest of the school got to applaud students. My their effort and learn a new thing science stuor two about science from fantastic science students! stretched as



Should you listen to music for better grades? Josh Larson has the answer!

Business Technology & Home Economics "Collaboratively Learning"

By Laurie Job
Business Technology Teacher
& Ashley Oyen
Home Economics Teacher

The **home** and **office** came together for educational purposes this year.



I (Mrs. Job) have an annual Business Brunch to complete my unit on etiquette in the workplace. After all, who doesn't need to know how to show respect during eating situations these days!

I (Mrs. Oyen) have a brand new classroom in the Reimer Building and am building a curriculum that shows how practical it is to know how to plan, prepare, serve and clean-up an event. And what a better way to provide this opportunity within the school and serve fellow students.



My (Mrs. Job's) students were treated to a lovely setting, professional speakers,

informative discussions and food that more than supplied the

physical needs by delighting our taste buds as well.

My (Mrs. Oyen's) students learned how to create a menu, adjust for budget constraints, prepare a banquet, and serve others as well as clean up. These skills will serve them well in many ways in the future.



My (Mrs. Job's) students were the real winners because they got a glimpse into the business world. They showed appreciation

to the serving staff and speakers; they used etiquette to solve difficult situations; and they were mindful of the discussion.



My (Mrs. Oyen's)
students were the real
winners because the
skills of hosting and
serving never go out of
style and are useful in
numerous settings!

So you can see that the collaboration of the Business Technology and Home Economics classes proved valuable and helpful for the education of the students at Valley Christian School.



The Class of 2019, several board members and spouses, and our guest speakers, Kim Dierking and Michael Harkin, enjoyed this memorable event.

Montana United NationsA Snapshot of World Affairs

By Noelle DeCan History Teacher

Each year over 350 Montana students congregate at the University of Montana for the Montana Model UN.

Valley Christian High School has sent teams to participate for the last three years and the teams have discussed and debated topics as varied as:

- "Promoting & Protecting the Rights of Children"
- "Deserts and Desertification"
- "Intellectual Property Rights"
- "Controlling the Arms Trade"
- "Infectious Diseases"
- "Sports for Promoting Peace"

Our teams of 4-5 students have represented Japan, the United Kingdom and Mexico in committees and on the Security Council, all of which simulate the workings of the United Nations.

In addition to involving Valley Christian with other Montana schools, our students are challenged by the other students, many of whom are academically at the pinnacle of their classes.

Interaction with top debaters and the opportunity

to listen to university professors lecture on relevant global topics, offers our students a window into the world of professionalism and academia that can only benefit them in the future.

This 2015 team was assigned the United Kingdom and studied its global impact.





Emma, Larissa, Rylian, and Aidan comprised the 2016 team and have truly deepened their understanding of Mexico and its role in the United Nations.



This 2014 team enriched their understanding of all things Japan to prepare for the Model UN.

Thailand Representative a.k.a. Our VCS 2017 Exchange Student

By Branson Becker, Sophomore

Phupha Krittin is Valley Christian's foreign exchange student and a very enjoyable classmate for us sophomores.

Phupha is originally from Nakhon Pathom, Thailand, which is where he learned English in a school of 1,000 students. His reason for coming to the United States is to improve his English, and in doing so he discovered his love for American culture.

While here, Phupha has made many good friends including the Armstrong family, who is hosting him; Blake, because he is nice; and me, because I make him laugh and help him with English.

Phupha came from Thailand with less than stellar English skills, and it wasn't always easy to understand him nor for him to understand us.

Now, after a year of practicing speaking and listening to English, most of his friends at Valley Christian can understand his jokes and he gets ours!

Over Spring Break

Square.

Phupha went on a mission trip with his host family and me to the Dominican Republic where we built a house in three days and played with the children. On the way there we stopped in New York for a day to see the Trump Tower and Times

According to Phupha, his favorite
American food is . . . all of it! And the

only thing he doesn't like is peanuts. His favorite sport to watch and play is basketball. He also participated on the JV basketball team here at VCS.

While at VCS, he has changed his hair color an amazing six times, but one thing that hasn't changed is his amazing talent for photography. He took a key role on the yearbook team, taking many stellar shots for the 2017 yearbook.

His family in Thailand has surely missed him, and we here at VCS will miss him as well when he returns to Thailand on June 10.

Hope to see you soon—like in your senior year! God's blessings.









Phupha brought us a better understanding of Thailand.



Phupha photographed these images of our school to remind him of his year with us.



Performing Arts Department 2016-2017

The VCS Performing Arts Department is in its fourth year of bringing quality music and acting to the community.

Molly and Michael Reimer team up in the fall and enlist every 7th and 8th grade student to participate in the current year's production. This year it was *The Music Man*.

In the spring the high school begins working on their production, which this year was *The Sound of Music.*

The display of talent, core of commitment, and the tenacity of the team make for a wonderful season of rehearsals and cooperation, culminating in shows open to the community.

The Performing Arts Department also prepares ensembles, vignettes, elementary programs, and concerts as an expression of the gifting of creativity God has provided uniquely to each student.







The hills (and the halls of VCS) are alive with the Sound of Music and great acting by the high school students and a few elementary assistants.



The cast of the Music Man is working to resolve the dilemma that Professor Hill brought to their town.

Behind the Scenes VCS Performing Arts Theatrical Productions

By Ashley Oyen
Props Purveyor

Since the announcement of the Sound of Music, staff and students have been working tirelessly to create yet another fantastic performance in the repertoire of Valley Christian School Performing Arts Program.

Along with the constant acting and coordinating, comes the tedious costume design and props creation. There is the cutting and sewing and cutting and sewing and fitting and tailoring and this is just costuming!

There is the stage design and

props design and builders to contact and painting and modifying and practicing the scene changes.

There are hours of work and getting

ready and then a fair amount of work returning the borrowed props and storing the others.

Thanks to a dedicated staff of team players, the performances are a delight to all.

Want to help? Please contact the VCS office and we'll find a job for you that fits your interest and skill! God's family works together for the benefit of the whole body.

"... when each part is working properly, [that part] makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love."

Ephesians 4:16



Mrs. Oyen & Mrs. Kuntz are a handy pair of visionaries who make the scenes come alive with costumes and props.



Downtime still requires a vigilant lookout!



The props "closet" has many patrons who add and subtract treasures.

The Principal Perspectives "From the lips of children and infants . . . "



By Cheryl Nurse, Elementary Principal

"From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." Psalm 8:2

Columnist and humorist, Erma Bombeck, once reported an experience she had in church. A row or two in front of her sat a mother with her five year old son. As he squirmed and looked over the pew at those behind him, he was smiling. Then Erma heard the mother sternly whisper, "Stop smiling! Don't you know that we're in church?"

Unfortunately, this story illustrates the attitudes that some Christians have towards worship. One of the values we wish to instill in our students at Valley Christian School is a joy for praise and worship. A highlight from this past year has

been Elementary Chapel. Our elementary students, with the help of Shelly Colwell, have been leading us in praise and worship every Wednesday morning. Worship is a reverence and adoration for God. This simply means that we worship God from the deepest part of who we are and we are honest and sincere in our worship. Participating with our students in worship this year has truly been a blessing. Their child-like faith shines brightly as they lift their hands and voices to the Lord.

We have so much to praise God for. There's great power in

. . true worshipers will

worship the Father in

spirit and truth. . ."

giving honor to Him. Yet reality is that way too often; daily struggles can crowd out our praise to God.

Here's what can make a lasting difference: when we make that decision to fix our eyes on Him, and daily give Him praise, no matter what's staring us straight in the face, we suddenly realize that God has already begun to release the grip those struggles can have over us. There's power in our acknowledgement that He is worthy, above all else, of our worship and praise.

We worship because God is worthy of our worship: "I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies." Psalm 18:3

We worship God because we are created to worship:

"But you are a chosen people of

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." 1 Peter 2:9

We worship God in Spirit and Truth:

"Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in

> spirit and in truth." John 4:23-24

I encourage you to look to Him, the One who holds it all together, and who

holds us in His hands. God desires our whole heart. He longs for us to know the power of His presence over our lives. He desires to bless us more than we could imagine. His Spirit urges us onward, calling us closer. May He help us to have that child-like faith: To look up... open our mouths...and sing.



The Principal Perspectives "Walking in the Truth"



By Dave Entwistle JH/HS Principal

Earlier today I attended the Memorial Service for Earle Reimer. Although I didn't know him very well, it was clear to me that he made a significant impact on the lives of so many who were in attendance.

It was a testimony of a life well-lived and of one who was committed to following the Lord and pointing others to Him. The week before his stroke, Earle invited Mona and me over for dinner, but had to postpone things as he wasn't feeling well. We'll make good on that rain check

"the leadership of VCS to continue the legacy"

when we get to heaven! ""the

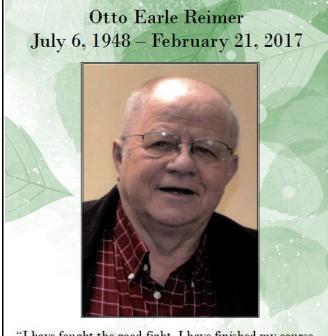
In many

ways I feel honored to be a part of the leadership of VCS and to continue the legacy which Earle began. In III John verse 4, the apostle says, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." That is certainly what we want as parents, isn't it?! Our kids might get into prestigious universities and get good jobs, but if they're not walking with the Lord, all of that is meaningless. As I begin my ministry at VCS, my desire is that as a school, our students would know that they are loved and that they in turn would love

others.

It is an honor and a privilege to partner together with you parents in working with your precious kids.





"I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who love his appearing." II Timothy 4:7-8

Football Firsts Our first College-Recruited Football Player

Smoke, high temperatures and grueling drills faced the athletes as they started this year's football season. And, as typically happens, the season ended facing cloudy, snowy days and in truly great physical shape.

Thanks to our returning

coaches
Shane
Sander and
Jim Cissell,
our VCS
team had
amazing



unity. This proved profitable as we ended our regular season 6 and 2. and placed 3rd in the Western C Division. VCS will face next season without its six seniors;
Jordan Kelly, Daniel Liner, Brad Klein, Colton Becker, Mason Woods and Kaileb Coyne. It was a great privilege to be a part of the first years of



Everybody wants to catch Colton Becker! Dakota College succeeded when he signed a letter of intent on May 10, 2017 to play football for the Lumberjacks.

VCS's football program and all of us look forward to the growth and power of the teams that will follow these pioneering footsteps.







Volleyball Victories Another College-Recruited Athlete

By Yearbook Staff

With smiles on their faces and fire in their eyes, the Lady Eagles Volleyball team was prepared for anything the moment they walked on the court.

Senior Cheyenne Jones currently holds the state record for kills in one game and has been recruited to play volleyball for the University of Texas, El Paso while she studies International

Business. Many girls, including some of our own, know the pain

Cheyenne's eyes are above the net!
An amazing vertical is only one of her
many savvy athletic skills.

associated with receiving one of Cheyenne's hits.

Erika Howard added an unbelievable amount of energy and talent to the team. And the setters,

> Lilly Schulz and Tara



Kaytlin's got this! And the team's ready for the next hit.

Messner, provided incredibly precise and calculated plays. The seniors on the team brought so much talent and enthusiasm, and this ultimately spread to the other team members.

Volleyball is about working together. It is about trusting your teammates and knowing they will have your back. The close-knit relationships that were created between these girls are what we believe to be their defining quality. It is what separates them from their competitors and ultimately, what brought them to their second regular season District Championship.



Teamwork was a specialty of this year's squad. The seniors mentored their teammates, and VCS Volleyball will be in good hands next year, too!

Superhero Competes in Missoula Josie Cross, VCS's Special Olympian

Our very own Josie Cross, who usually prefers to be addressed by Superhero titles like

Batman, Flash, or Captain America competed in the Special Olympics Montana State Summer Games held in Missoula on May 18-20.

Her events were the 100 and 200 meter dashes. It's a commonly known fact that the louder the crowd cheers the faster this athlete moves! (How like most of us!)

This is the 3rd year the Special Olympics Games have been held in Missoula, and over

1,300 athletes competed with 2,000 volunteers assisting the athletes.

And the winners are:

... Well, have YOU ever competed in the Olympics? And what truly makes a winner?

According to God's Word, it's those who have finished the

A rest before the next race. race and have kept the faith (II Timothy 4:7).

May that be true of all of us!





Her unique style makes her a most memorable athlete.





Josie won a bronze medal in the 100 meter and a silver medal in the 200 meter!

VCS Shares the Love!

By John Elsen, Junior Class Advisor

Candy Grams are a long standing tradition of sending Christmas cheer and Valentine's love during the school year. The Junior class organizes and runs the Candy Gram operation, and this year it was headquartered in my math classroom.

In the days leading up to Christmas, students, parents, grandparents and friends can buy candy canes and write notes that will be attached to the candy and addressed to the student, teacher, or staff member.

The juniors then deliver the candy cane and note at the end of the day.

For Valentine's Day the options of gifts to send is expanded and included "Crush" sodas, heart lollipops, and this year a raffle for a 6 ½ foot teddy bear.

Candy Grams season is something that students look forward to every year because of the sweets that are

delivered, and the joy that comes in each message received.

The money for this fund-raiser goes to support the Juniors in their preparation for Senior Honor Night.





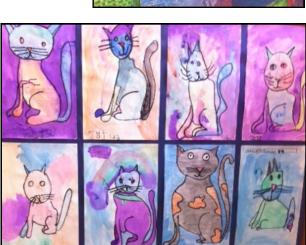
The Juniors (Caleb Colwell above) were especially busy organizing the many messages.

Spring Art Shows Eye of the Beholder

By Maureen Ammondson K-12 Art Teacher

> If you get up close, and really look with your mind's eye, you'll see why this "quilt" is so unique.





Kitty-colored by our kiddos.

Philip's sister, Erika, has some stunning artwork that motivates him



to greater appreciation of the sibling connection.



Look up and see what creativity God put into the hearts and minds of our elementary students.



Life-sized living color creations that make us smile and enjoy spring even more.

1 Life - 1 Message - 1 Wheel One Amazing Unicyclist

By VCS Yearbook Staff

Dustin Kelm is the star of his own show, Uni Show! This year the Valley students were amazed by Dustin's crazy feats of bravery and skill on his one wheel bike otherwise known as a unicycle. He did some outrageous and dangerous tricks like riding a plank uphill and hopping from platform to platform and then down stairs all with a blindfold on! Mr. Hawkins got on one of Dustin's unicycles and had a pretty good ride for an amateur!

Beyond his crazy show of mastery on the one wheel bike, Dustin shared his life story and how he met Jesus. Turns out that a Unicycle show can open doors and hearts if you have the right goal in mind: selfish ambition out, godly direction in.



He really did jump that unicycle up and down the stairs.



Definitely a crowd pleaser!



It's a team thing! He and his wife shared their complimentary talents.



If he miscalculates the jump, he'll flatten Mr. Hawkins!

Valuable Volunteers Blessing VCS Daily

By Maureen Ammondson K-12 Yearbook Advisor

Valley Christian School began a volunteer recognition program in November this year because of the great value these fine people add to the school.

The very first recipient was Christin Williams who has served VCS as a teacher's aide for over 15 years after having graduated from



VCS. Her co-laborer, Nataliya Lemeza, 2nd Grade Teacher, reported that "I have yet to meet such a devoted teacher's assistant as Christin. She shines for the Lord in all she does, and continues to do so with a smile." And Sharon Benson, former second grade teacher, recalls "The most special thing about Christin is her love for Jesus and her desire to live her life in Christ. Christin not only has been a

helper but an inspiration to me."

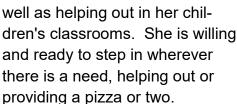
In December,
Jocelyn Hoaglin
was recognized as
a parent volunteer
who pours her heart
into her work. With
three young kids of



her own she headed up Grandparents Day. With the help of many friends, she honored over 150 grandparents with a special morning of activities, treats, and memory making. It is such a blessing to have Jocelyn modeling to our little ones how to honor their grandparents.

In January, Jennifer Bernhart

was recognized as Volunteer of the month. She has been a part of the VCS family for seven years. She faithfully serves on our PTF board as



And there are more! February's recipient was the ever faithful Janet Seagraves (too shy for

a photo shoot!) whose children have all graduated

> high school and she simply loves to be a part of a good thing!

In March,
Michelle Beaudin
was chosen for
her volunteer

work with publications, Quiz Bowl, and other projects.

In April, Kristine Greene was honored for her faithful, passionate and



caring presence in our kindy and first grade classrooms. She comes in early for daily reading groups and goes above and beyond in preparing lessons and reading activities for her groups.

May's recipient is a new face to VCS, Kris Brewer, who donates her time to help the school look spiffy while the



rest of us have "clocked out". She has been volunteering her time as a cleaner for most of this

year. Her hard work, integrity and servant's heart has made her a valuable part of our team.

"Make your face shine on your servant; save me in your steadfast love!" Psalm 31:16

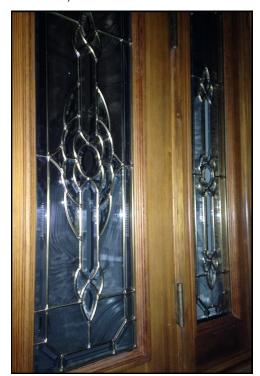
The Eyrie Improved Finishing Touches

By Felcia Kuntz, Student Store Manager

As many of you already know, a new door has been installed to replace the gate that was between the Eyrie and the Student Store.

Mr. Martineau had been on the lookout for just the right door, and you can see he found the perfect solution. During Christmas break he was able to install the door with few interruptions.

The door has given the Eyrie a little more privacy and helped dampen the noise from the coolers, microwaves and freez-



The leaded glass adds class.

ers in the Student Store, and of course the voices of hungry students eager for lunch.

Thanks to Brian Dierking and Keaton Surratt for putting on the finishing touches of drywall and paint.

This room is used during lunch time for a student lounge, for meetings, by the Prayer Team each Tuesday morning, and by those who wish to rent the space for special occasions.



These temporary trees are lovely, but ineffective at hiding the work in progress!



Thank you for making our Eyrie even more of a nesting place.

Beyond Words 2017 Yearbook Team

By Maureen Ammondson K-12 Yearbook Advisor

Beyond Words sums up the 2016-17 yearbook team!

Anna DeCan, the "rock star" of room 12, was also the editor and creative energy behind this year's yearbook edition. Miss DeCan was not the only valuable member of the yearbook staff, she was assisted by half a dozen other amazing and talented students. To say that it takes a team is an understatement!

It takes dedication and focus to complete the Valley Christian year-book. While this is not an easy task, it is a lot of fun and when all is said and done, we can look back on 2017 for years to come.







Graduates Commence Final Words from Starting Gate



Nicole Johnson. renowned author and speaker, and stay home mom, shared her unique point of

view with the graduates with words of wisdom for their future.

Johnson shared her concept of "packing your own suitcase". She went on to describe the most important things to have in

place as the graduates embark on their independence.

Amidst the crowd comprised of family and friends, were twelve excited, and if they were honest, a bit scared, graduates. Yes, the Class of 2017 is somewhat small but nonetheless impressive.

Cheyenne Jones. the class valedictorian and Anna DeCan. the salutatorian. both delivered inspirational speeches.

Cheyenne has been a student at Valley Christian since she was in kindergarten along with Lilly Schulz and Jordan Kelly. It's funny how time flies even when you are doing school work!

So time flies, children grow up, and another class is sent out to

> impact our world.

Congratulations Class of 2017! It won't be the same around here without you!



The Class of 2017 has more opportunities before it than anv other class to date and more obstacles along the way as well. Truly, God's directing will always serve them well.



What's Next? 2017-2018 is Getting Ready for us!

Mon. Aug. 21st

VCS Family BBQ & Teacher Meet and Greet



Thurs. Aug. 24th

First Day of School



Thurs. Sep. 21st

Back to School Night



