

IN TOUCH

BLAIR CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Summer 2001 Issue

25 Years of God's Blessings

by Mr. Joseph Blake



In the vastness that is God, a quarter of a century is barely a blip in time. Yet, God has managed to take that infinitesimal period and lay blessings upon Blair Christian Academy as if He had been working on it for years.

From one floor of a storefront church on Hunting Park Avenue to the expansive facilities on Upsal Street, we have grown both physically and spiritually.

From the constant improvement in our academics, to the reaching out and developing of specialized programs, Blair Christian Academy has taken the goodness and blessings of the Lord and used it to spread the Gospel through education.

We continue to grow as only God

can allow... a new art room, an expanded parking lot, specialized programs and the wisdom we receive from Dr. Della Blair's trips around the world. Without His goodness and the wonderful support and love of the many parents, students, teachers and staff that make this school a very special place to be, none of the above would be possible.

So, as we prepare to celebrate 25 years of existence, we also celebrate a moment in God's thoughts that has kept us, and brought us this far by faith.

This newsletter highlights just a few of the many activities & programs that make Blair Christian Academy second to none.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

This past school year has been a truly blessed one for BCA. Not only did our students visit yet another country (CANADA), but many received awards, honors & special mentions.

AMONG THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE:

- The first stages of a five-year strategic plan.
- A Computer Science class added for grades 1-5.
- Our first Elementary Science Fair held.
- French, Music, Art, Dance & Computer Science classes added to the after-school program.
- Opened The Academy, BCA's school store.
- Sent more than 100 Christmas packages to needy children in various countries.
- Contributed to a missions offering during middle and high school chapel services.
- Witnessed the opening of our new art room and the expansion & re-furbishing of our entire parking lot.
- An enrichment program added for grades 1-6.
- Our founder, Dr. Della Blair, spent several days in Israel.

Blazing the Trail

by: Kelly Aichele

On Tuesday, June 5th, Dr. Della M. Blair boarded a plane for Tel Aviv, Israel. On this missions trip, Dr. Blair will walk where Jesus once walked and witness to the Jewish people.

On a quest for knowledge and understanding of Jewish culture and religion, Dr. Blair said she was excited to stay in such a historic area of the world. Her nine-day excursion includes traveling the Old Jericho Road, visits to synagogues and mosques,

and a baptismal service in the Jordan River.

Dr. Blair has been on missions trips to Korea and China, and looked forward to this opportunity to travel through the Holy Land. She hopes to bring back information and enlightenment to Blair Christian Academy. We eagerly await her safe return and the wisdom that it will bring!



The School Children Call Home.....

Blair Christian Academy

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Dr. Della M. Blair- Executive Director
Dr. Karen R. S. Jenkins- Executive Administrator

KENYA 2002

It is unclear exactly how the idea first came about, probably because it was a thought that has always been in the front of our minds—to visit Africa, the birthplace of our ancestors and the cradle of civilization.

Our motto this year is "All footsteps lead to Kenya." On that path so far are approximately 20 people who have their dreams set on autopilot and their minds focused on being embraced by the Motherland.

We will meet with members of the Masai tribe, ride camels on the safari and sleep beneath the stars of a sky that once looked down upon our forefathers with the same benevolence that will shine upon us.

This is a trip of a lifetime, and a lifetime trip. As our time approaches in 2002, we ask for your prayers & continued support as we launch fundraisers and other activities to both publicize the adventure and cut costs.

World Ambassadors Program by Joseph Blake

You don't have to travel to know about the world, but you do have to travel in order to understand it.

As society becomes more complicated and diverse, the need to understand these changes and movements of cultures and philosophy is a challenge our students are meeting as part of our World Ambassadors Program.

Each year, Blair Christian Academy students travel to a different location outside the country. So far, we have taken our children to Paris, Mexico, Canada and we will go on a safari in Kenya, East Africa in 2002.

Working hand in hand with outside programs such as the World Affairs Council, Junior Achievement and the Bible League, the World Ambassadors program exposes Blair students to some of the community's finest leadership programs and organizations.

This is important in regards to building self-esteem and a desire to learn more about the world. When a child has walked the streets of Paris beneath shimmering lights, conversed conversationally in French and Spanish and left their footprints in the sand outside the walled city of Tulum on the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, the world becomes less complicated, their perspectives become broader, and their understanding, tolerance, and compassion rises to a spiritual level.



Spotlight on the Curriculum

by: Kelly Aichele

SCIENCE

The integration of science and the Bible helps students to think critically and constructively with a Bible-based worldview. The educators & administrators at Blair Christian Academy feel that the incorporation of its World Ambassadors curriculum with the teachings of the Bible will produce strong students and citizens.

With that in mind, Blair Christian Academy has invested time and other resources into expanding its science program. This year, Blair Christian Academy brought home ONE silver and FIVE bronze medals from the ACSI Regional Science Fair. Other awards include our 1st place award in the Envirothon, a city-wide competition with an environmental science theme, last year. At the George Washington Carver city-wide competition Leah Ferby won 1st place (biology) and Leon Singleton (chemistry) and Will Slofer (physics) received honorable mention. Slofer also received a scholarship from the University of Pennsylvania for a free application to the Penn Summer Science Academy.

BCA held its 1st annual science fair for the elementary school this year with a "Weather Watchers" theme. Students in grades 1-6 learned about God's weather system and the important role it plays in sustaining the earth. Using the scientific method, students spent several months creating projects at home. The event was a success and we were fortunate to see many creative and well-done projects.

Next year, fourth through sixth grade students will compete in the city-wide competition. The sky is the limit for Blair Christian Academy students!

ART & MUSIC

"Artistic pursuits are the only outlets for students to express the mural of their creative fire," says art teacher Ms. Qui. Ms. Qui believes in the importance of art in the curriculum and emphasizes the need of expansion—in students' minds and our own programming. She is the advisor for the Art Club and the drama director. Expanding out into the artistic culture of Philadelphia, Ms. Qui took several of her older students to visit the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and a workshop at the fabric stores by 4th and South Streets. In the elementary school, projects included sewing an art bag and creating briefcases from cardboard boxes.

Ms. Qui plans to expand the art program at BCA by forming a touring drama company and creating an art major and apprenticeship program next year. For the first time, Ms. Qui taught a public speaking class this year. Caltiena Ancrum won 1st place at a

regional Speech Meet. Plans are in the works for a semester each of art, music, drama and public speaking in the elementary school.

Blair Christian Academy added an art/music classroom adjacent to the lunchroom this year. BCA also added a music appreciation class for sixth through eighth graders, taught by Marja Kaisla. Many Blair students take private instrument lessons at Ms. Kaisla's music school, Siebulus Academy. She recently sponsored a classical concert performed by Laudate, a group of music students from Philadelphia Biblical University.

BCA's music program includes choir (grades 4-12), a handbells class (5th grade-high school) and an advanced recorder class (grades 1-5), which is part of the after school program. The handbells students and the choir perform at annual special programs, such as Grandparents Day, the Christmas Program, African American Heritage Day and the Concert of the Arts. These special events include a show coordinated by the drama director. The Concert of the Arts features the artistic works of the students of BCA, with visual and performance exhibits. Dance classes in the African, ballet, jazz, modern, tap, hip-hop and other styles are offered at BCA for an additional cost by our gym teacher, Ms. Chrystie Cannon. There is always something fun & creative going on at Blair Christian Academy!

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Rector, teacher of computer science at Blair Christian Academy, is pleased to announce the new changes made to the computer science program. The most important addition is the extension of computer classes to grades 1-5. The number of lab hours also were increased to give students more time to do research. Finally, several pieces of new equipment were acquired and the room layout was changed to make learning more effective. These changes make the computers more accessible and helpful to students.

*Congratulations to
all the graduates
May God bless you in your
future endeavors!*

