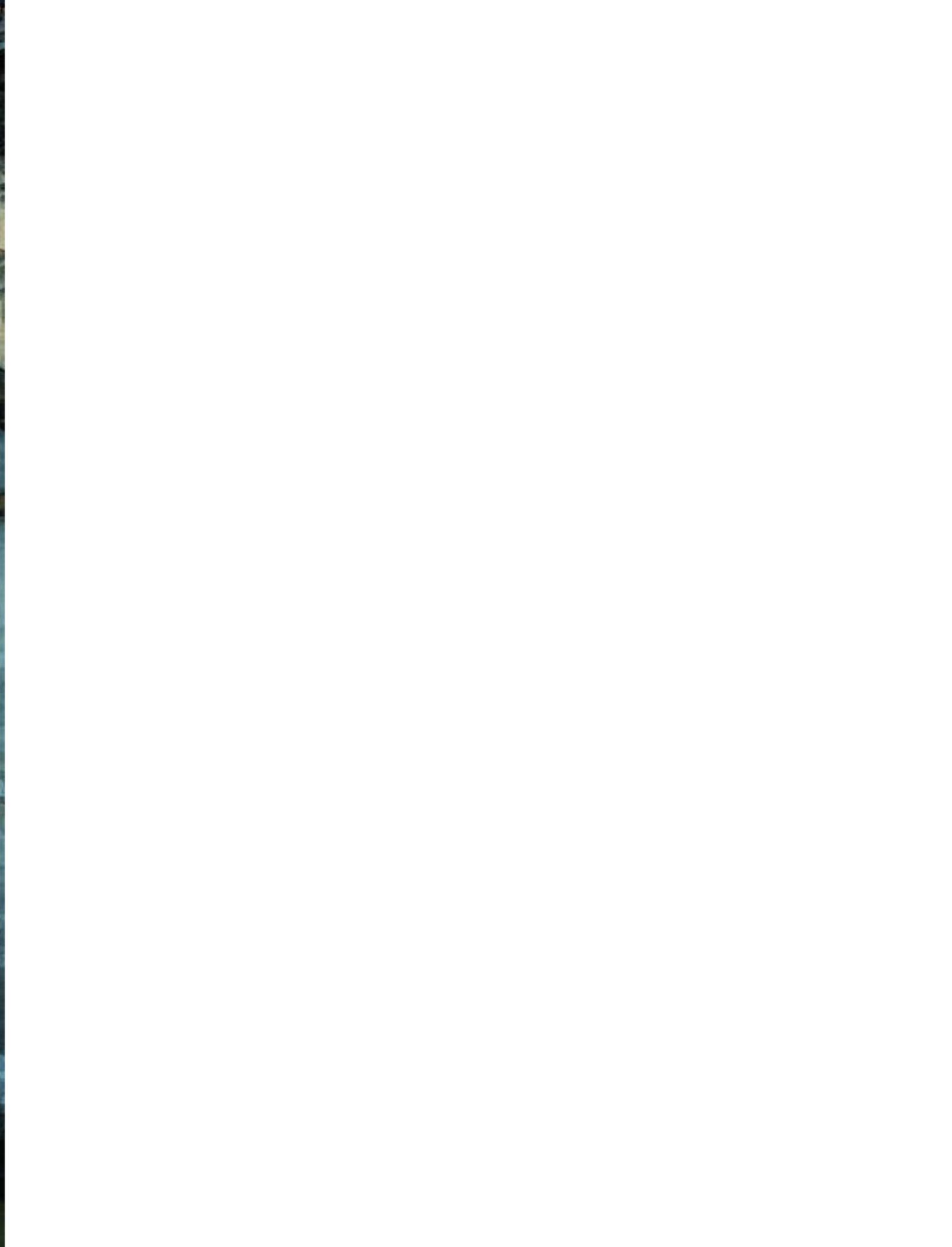


lessons learned

westside christian high school

summer 2008

on purpose



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We welcome your letters.
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Westside Christian High School

WESTSIDE ALUMNI WATCH

Tiffany Johanson (2000) is currently an insurance underwriter for Mercer Health Benefits. She graduated from Pepperdine University in 2004 with a degree in Biology.

First Lieutenant **Kyle Steputis** (2000) will be promoted to Captain in July. He is serving with the Air Force in Anchorage, Alaska. Kyle was a political science major at SPU, graduating in 2004.

Derek Johanson (2001) graduated from TCU in 2005 with a degree in History. He also works as an insurance underwriter at Mercer Health Benefits.

Jessica (Gibson) Johanson (2001), a George Fox graduate, is a marketing consultant.

A project engineer at Skanska, **Katie Reiff** (2002), graduated from Pepperdine University in 2006 with a degree in International Business. In her spare time she likes to run and cook (probably not at the same time).

Graduating from OSU in 2006, Psychology major **Olivia Cashman** (2002) currently works for the City of Sherwood as Event and Volunteer Coordinator. She also teaches yoga classes with a Christian emphasis and is active at Imago Dei.

Brittany (Patterson) Fidanzo (2003) earned her BA in English at Lewis and Clark College in 2007. In 2008 she graduated from George Fox with a Master of Arts in Teaching and is currently pursuing a career teaching high school English.

TJ Fidanzo (2003) graduated Magna Cum Laude from George Fox in 2007 with a degree in Economics and works for Hollywood Entertainment doing statistical analysis. He is active on his church's worship team. TJ and Brittany spend much of their time caring for their two dogs, Heidi and Wilson.

English teacher and coach **Allison Cartmill** (2003) currently teaches eighth-grade Language Arts in the McMinnville School District. She graduated from Linfield College in 2007 with a B.A. in English.

Barclay (Bittner) Emmons and **Zeke Emmons** (both 2004), graduates of OSU, were married on June 21.

on purpose

on purpose is more than a name – it's a significant part of Westside's vision: to intentionally prepare our students for a greater purpose in life.

on purpose is published three times yearly for the broader Westside community to give you a glimpse of what makes us unique.

*For our light and momentary troubles
are achieving for us an eternal glory
that far outweighs them all.*

(2 Cor. 4:17 NIV).

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: GRANT ROESLER, '02

SELECTED TO SUFFER

BY DEB GIVENS

Graduation cards were still proudly displayed on the Roesler's kitchen counter. 2002 Westside grad Grant Roesler and his friends were enjoying the warm lazy days of summer sandwiched between their high school years and the pending launch into college life. Life was good, despite a nagging cough that threatened to put a damper on the carefree activities that teens pack into their summer days like sardines in a can.

Reluctant to let a little cough keep him down, Grant filled his social calendar for those months before he and all his classmates would scatter to colleges across the country. Unfortunately, the cough had other plans and started to dominate his waking and sleeping hours. By the first week of July, Grant was rushed to the emergency room and given a battery of tests -- chest x-ray, CAT scan, needle biopsy, and eventually an open chest biopsy.

It all happened so fast that it was hard for Grant to digest Dr. Craig Nichols' words, "You have non-Hodgkin's lymphoma..." Everything he said after that seemed a blur, as Grant tried to come to grips with this life-altering diagnosis.

With summer and college plans a distant memory, Grant was swiftly diverted down a new path, one that included chemotherapy every three weeks and six and a half weeks of radiation to shrink a grapefruit-sized tumor in his chest. He was suddenly transplanted into a world that was totally foreign to him, filled with lots of pokes, prods, nausea, and no regard for privacy. This was certainly not a path he had bargained for.

His friends were numbed by the news. Although they felt deep empathy for Grant, they were unaccustomed to dealing with cancer and all its baggage. Teens in the prime of their life are not supposed to be dealt cards like these. And soon, these same friends were taking off for college, leaving Grant behind with his medical procedures and fears.

"I didn't have to do it all by myself, though," clarified Grant. "Mr. Custis (Westside Bible teacher) was by my side during chemo treatments, and the staff was so genuinely concerned. More than ever before, I was so glad I had attend-

ed Westside. My faith and solid Christian education really carried me through the darkest days."

Months seemed like an eternity, but soon Grant was cleared to head off to college. Despite feeling a bit battle weary, Grant entered Whitworth at the semester break and ultimately received an undergraduate degree in Political Science.

During Grant's junior year, he pursued an internship with a non-profit organization, Children's Cancer Association (CCA), operated in partnership with Doernbecher Children's Hospital and Emanuel Hospital. From this experience he was invited to be a counselor in a summer cancer camp for kids who are currently or have recently battled cancer. These opportunities



Grant Roesler during chemotherapy at OHSU.

proved to be the catalyst for a passion for working with teenage cancer patients.

"Through my own experience, and that of the kids I met at camp, I realized there is a void for teenagers when it comes to cancer support groups," expressed Grant. "Here they are, supposedly in the prime of their life, and someone tells them they have cancer. That's devastating. They are already grappling with self-esteem issues, trying to figure out who they are and what they want to be. Their friends don't know much about cancer or how to relate to what they're dealing with. It can be very hard."

With some encouragement from coworkers at CCA, Grant formed a new organization, *On Yukon* (Oncology

Youth Connection). The concept and the heart behind it are solid. Now comes the hard part, the funding.

Grant's proposal has been favorably received by doctors and nurses within the oncology arena. With their encouragement, Grant is exploring grant opportunities and outside support.

But this isn't the end of the story. As so often happens in the Westside community, word of Grant's project spread. Another Westside alum, David Allcroft ('00) was intrigued by what he heard and tracked down Grant.

With a business degree from Linfield College under his belt, David is now working on his MBA at George Fox. One of the requirements of the program is to work with a local non-profit organization on the creation of a strategic plan. David knew just the non-profit organization he wanted to team up with - *On Yukon*. He will be creating a sustainable three-year funding plan for the program.

Our prayers are with them as the two await the funding required to get *On Yukon* up and running.

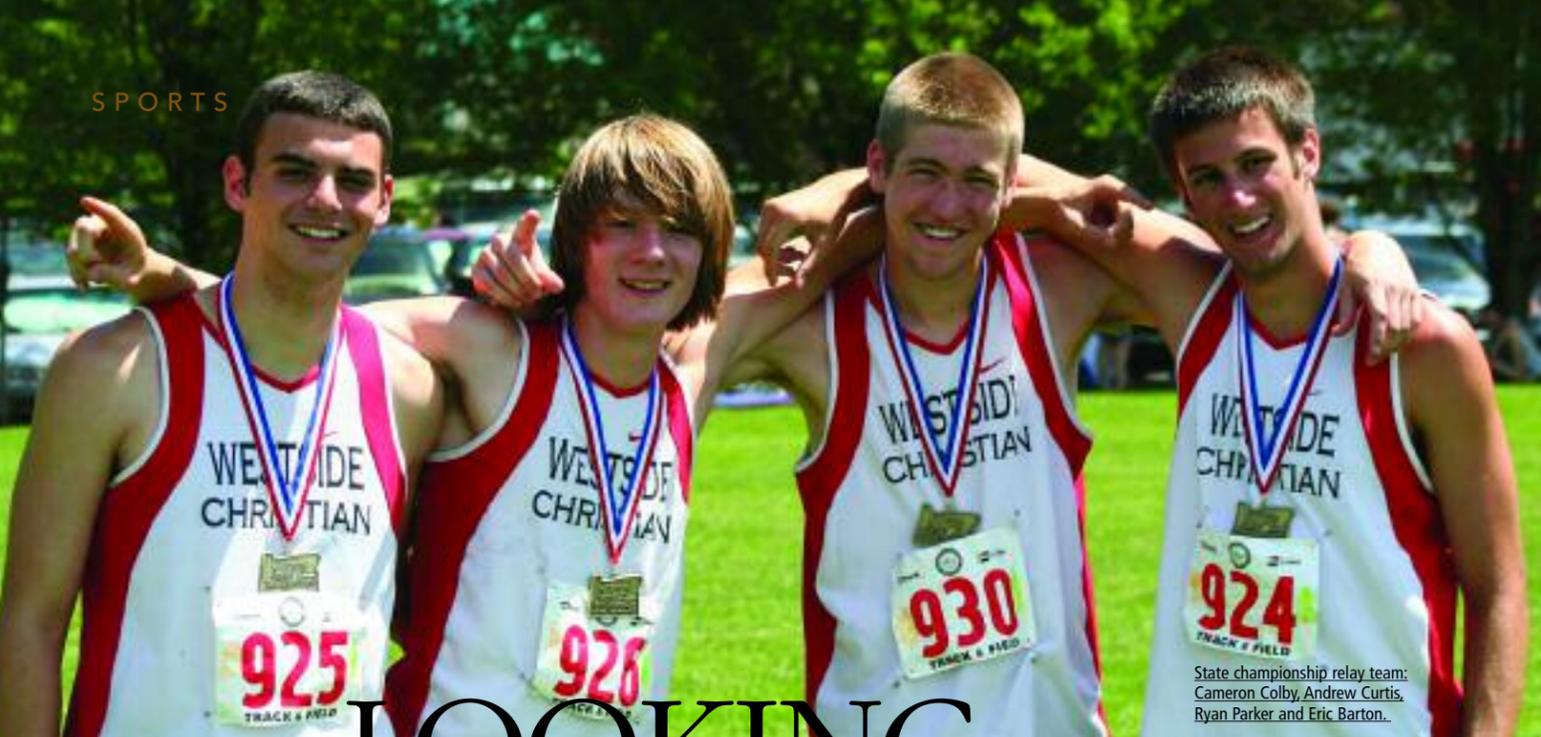
This sort of collaboration between our grads is one of the many advantages of the close-knit community environment at Westside.

Beyond the Suffering

In this life we'll never really know why Grant was selected to suffer. We do know, however, that since he did, God has called him to be His hands and voice to work with other teens facing the long road of cancer treatment. By walking in their shoes he truly knows the path they are on, the doubts that cloud their spirits, and the physical pain they are enduring.

I have no doubt that this publication will be held by arthritic hands. This story will be read by tear-filled eyes. Some of you have come face to face with cancer yourself, and your hearts are hope starved. Who has an answer for the diseases, drudgeries, and darkness of this life? Only Christ.

But we do know this: Everything changes when you're open to looking for the positive in all situations -- just as Grant did.



LOOKING beyond the WIN

BY KIMBERLY LANDSEM

TRACK AND FIELD, A VIRTUAL THREE-RING CIRCUS OF BOYS AND GIRLS RUNNING, THROWING AND JUMPING, OFFERS ATHLETES THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A TEAM EACH SPRING. WHETHER IT IS EMBODIED IN A HIGH JUMPER CLEARING THE BAR, THE SUCCESSFUL PASS OF THE BATON, OR THE POWERFUL HEAVE OF THE SHOTPUT, WESTSIDE ATHLETES EXEMPLIFY A THREE-POINT FOCUS: EXPECTING AND SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE, MOLDING CHARACTER AND MODELING CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP. AS A SPECTATOR AT THIS SPRING'S TWO-DAY WEST VALLEY DISTRICT TRACK MEET, I FOUND MYSELF FASCINATED BY THE MANY WAYS THESE VALUES WERE PLAYED OUT BEFORE ME. HERE'S JUST A PEEK...

Expecting and Supporting Excellence

Juniors Emily Quatier and Cameron Colby finished first twice, both in the 100m and 200m, while sophomore Andrew Curtis set a school record in the 300m Intermediate Hurdles, qualifying for State. Junior Scott Harris won the 400m. The boys 4 x 100m relay erased a disappointing disqualification memory in last year's District meet by not only winning, but also setting a meet record. High jumper and long jumper Luke Smith, 200m sprinter Ryan Parker, and the girls 4 x 100m team also earned spots at the State meet with solid performances.

So, is it all about the "win"? Not at all! To the Westside team, a successful day in Track and Field can mean finishing first or just finishing. It can be a school record or a personal best time or throw.

There can be celebration and good memories even for those who do not lead the pack. Take Sophomore Stephanie Kunkle for example. She saved her best 1500m run for last, shaving 25 seconds off her time over the course of the season. For Stephanie, that was excellence.

Senior Gabe Behrmann did not compete for a couple of years because of involvement in Westside theater. This year, he managed to do both and captured fourth place in the high jump. The most God expects is our best effort. And when we give him our all, He is there to join in on the celebration!

Molding Character

Let's turn back the clock to August 2006. Scott and Heidi Ball hosted Cross Country Camp in their home for distance runners who logged 120 running miles over the summer months, and a new tradition was introduced: boxer running shorts. Runners selected the fabric and cut out the pattern; Heidi Ball did the sewing. In giving of their time and talents,

the Balls have helped teach team unity, and in the process they have molded character in more than a few long-distance runners.

Many of those cross country athletes find themselves on the track each spring running some combination of the 800m, 1500m and 3000m. A year and a half later, many of those boxer shorts are still being sported as warm-up gear. The most infamous pair, a silky shade of pink have helped prepare Daniel Friesen for every race he's run since they were made. He says they are amazing and a necessity. The same could be said of his character on the track.

Daniel's running career at Westside has been very successful. His best time in the 3000m sits at the top of the state 3A division records. Last year he finished second at State in the event, and this year he qualified again in both the 3000m and 1500m. His athletic ability receives plenty of attention, but his character as a teammate may not be completely understood until you glimpse actions like these...

On the first day at the West Valley District meet, Daniel appeared to start slow in the 3000m, a race he could easily complete thirty seconds ahead of the competition. Several laps into the event, he was still running third or fourth. Instead of looking straight ahead and taking off, he was frequently peeking over his shoulder yelling, "Come on, David" and other encouragements to teammate David Jeffery.

Qualifying for state was Daniel's goal, but it was not his only focus. He also hoped to set a pace that would allow David the same outcome. Instead of flaunting his own ability, he exhibited the selfless character of a true teammate. Not until David yelled, "Friez, go," did Daniel take off, claim first and secure a berth in the State Championships.

In another instance, a teammate experienced a painful disqualification due to a false start on the second day of the event. The athlete, who was not allowed to run his race, lay prone on the infield trying to come to terms with missed opportunity. Daniel was the first person by his side. When there are not words to bring comfort to a friend, Daniel knew he could just be there and pray.

There is nothing more eternally satisfying than seeing the character of our students molded during an athletic event.

Christian Leadership

Now let's shift our eyes to the long-jump pit... It was a meet of mixed emotions for Coach Moreland Anderson. He teared up at the thought of Senior Jessica Monroe injuring her knee on a warm-up run for the long jump and not being able to compete. Being the athlete and leader that she is, though, Jessica gave the triple jump on Saturday her best effort and came close to qualifying for State even though she was physically less than 100%. Senior Laurel Ball watched Jessica's jumps, offering words of encouragement and her sweatshirt to ward off the cold. Daniel Friesen and David Jeffery also watched. A spectator came over after the event to compliment Jessica on her gutsy performance. Her example and quiet acceptance spoke volumes that day and exemplified Westside values at their best.

Westside is known throughout the valley for our State-caliber athletic teams. Even more important to the Westside family, however, is the drive for excellence, Christ-like character, and exemplary leadership exhibited by our athletes.



EAGLES ROUND UP SUCCESSFUL SEASON

THIRD STRAIGHT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WESTSIDE GOLF TEAM

Westside's golf team finished their season in spectacular fashion by winning their third straight State Championship. Alex Harding finished with a 2-day total of 146 to tie for medalist honors, Trevor Harding shot 158 to finish 3rd, Nathan Smith scored 159 to tie for 4th and Ryan Jesenik scored 162 for 8th place. All four golfers earned All-State honors for their outstanding effort.

BASEBALL TEAM CAPTURES SECOND IN STATE

The Eagles baseball team had a memorable season with a commendable 23-3 record. In the State Finals, the team rallied a come-from-behind battle and came close to securing the State Championship. Hats off to our relatively young team for bringing home the second place trophy.

TRACK & FIELD ATHLETES SHATTER RECORDS

The boys track and field team won the West Valley League Championship and were determined not to leave the State Meet empty handed. Their efforts paid off as they captured 2nd place overall – the best performance by a Westside track team in many years! The girls team took third place in the District meet and were represented by four athletes at the State competition. Both the boys and girls teams shattered records in their performances at State.

TENNIS TEAM DEMONSTRATES COURT STRENGTH

The girls varsity and junior varsity tennis teams finished their second seasons with strong league play and improved showings in the district tournaments. The doubles team of Shelby Wetter and Rosie Kniesteadt and singles player Siri Carlson performed well at districts, falling just short of qualifying for the State Playoffs.

LESSONS LEARNED UNDER THE BURNSIDE BRIDGE

BY DON WESTERBERG

FEW WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE conjure up sentimental warmth for me like the word “home”. We all, to varying degrees, may see it as a geographical location or as a place where we store our stuff, but to me “home” has always represented a connection to people more than to place or possessions. What happens, then, when someone loses that connection to people or to place, particularly when he begins to be defined by a word that embodies that disconnected situation? Far from evoking sentimental warmth, the term “homeless” can project an aura of vulnerability, isolation, and sheer survival...

IT WOULD BE EASY for Westside students and staff to foster a false image of the homeless due to inexperience. That is, unless they are given the opportunity to actually meet with, get to know, and learn from, those who live without the benefits we take for granted.

Night Strike is just such an opportunity. For the last five years Bridgetown Ministries, under the leadership of Marshall Snider, has provided a venue where our staff and students can go and minister to, as well as learn from, those who find themselves without a steady and safe environment called home.

In general the “homeless” have little in life they can depend on. Yet, they can count on the fact that every Friday night under the Burnside Bridge they can be served right where the next day the Saturday Market will draw people from the greater Portland area to shop.

There are many moments at Night Strike that exist as snapshots in my mind. One would be the image of a fellow Westside staffer kneeling over a basin of warm water as she washed the feet of a Night Strike regular. To her right was a former Portland TV celebrity in the same posture following the example of her Lord with the basin and the towel. Night Strike is like that. It erases the categories defined by our culture and allows people to meet on a personal and powerful level.

One night my wife, Ann, and I had been asked to man the literature table where Bibles and devotional books are free for the taking. Many people will come up and engage in conversation, ask a question about the Bible, or request prayer. For the most part they just come to talk to a real person who will show them value by looking them in the eye and listening to their story instead of looking past them, through them, or away from them. At Night Strike they belong to a community. To many of them it is their “home”.

Perhaps the most valued exhibit in my mental gallery is of a little woman we met while at that table. Cathy (not her real name) was a middle-aged lady, not even five feet tall, who had been living on the streets in Portland for only one week. She described how she had been led by providential means to leave her home in another state to flee an abusive relationship. Gathering a few personal belongings, she purchased a bus ticket and arrived in Portland with no connections, relying on the Lord to take care of her. She introduced us to a couple passing by with their soup bowls in hand. She had linked with them for security purposes and shared the same “campsite”. However, earlier in the week while they were away from the site, they returned to find that all their belongings had been stolen.

It was at this point that this seemingly vulnerable and victimized lady began to teach what for me was the lesson of the night. She said, “I took the couple’s hands and told them that we needed to pray.” She continued by reenacting the prayer. “Lord, we don’t have very much, but what little we have has been taken from us. We need it, Lord, so we ask you to bring it back to us, if that be your will.” Then she looked at us and smiled, “And you know what? Within two hours it had all been returned to us. Isn’t God good?”

I was supposed to be the “Bible Answer Man” for the evening, but she was the one doing the teaching. In that moment she gave living testament of God’s ear being attuned to the needy. King David said in Psalm 35:10, “My whole being will exclaim, ‘Who is like you, O Lord? You rescue the poor from those too strong for them, the poor and needy from those who rob them.’”

Some day in the future Westside may have the blessing from God to have its own home and an even deeper sense of place for its family. But if that time never comes, it won’t mean that we will be hampered in learning the most important lessons that we can ever learn. Sometimes we can learn them, even under a bridge.

DON’T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

REFLECTION BY AIMI WALLBERG

One foggy Friday morning I found myself staring out of the Narthex windows, fascinated by the birds hopping around outside on the grass pecking the ground for food. It reminded me of the verse in Matthew 6:26 “Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?”

That whole week I had been caught up in the stress of the college decision-making process. Watching the birds helped remind me that I don’t need to sweat the small stuff because God cares about me, even the small things going on in my life. Little did I know that He would demonstrate this truth again while serving the homeless that night under the Burnside Bridge.

My first assignment at Night Strike was to go on a prayer walk with another student, Morgan – walking around downtown praying for the people of Portland. We prayed for the PSU students as we passed through the Park Blocks, for business people who worked up in the KOIN Tower, even for a drug dealer who was getting busted on the street. Near the end of the night we headed back toward the waterfront, dodging a random bag of cat food on the sidewalk.

Back at the bridge we chatted with a young homeless girl who was bedding down for the night. She was proud to reveal a cat carrier holding a black kitten named Shadow. It turns out that Shadow had saved her life from a fire in a building where she last lived. She went on to tell us that since she began living on the street she has realized how little “stuff” she really needs to live. She went on to say that every time she really needed something, it was provided. She continued, “I mean, like right now... Shadow is going to need food pretty soon.” Before she could finish her sentence, Morgan and I looked at each other and yelled, “Oh my gosh, stay right here.” We took off running back to the waterfront, where that random bag of cat food still lay. God allowed us to be part of His plan by providing just what she needed. We were the hands and feet of Jesus to that homeless girl.

Since that night I have gone back to Bridgetown several times. Every time that I take the time to be available for God, He reveals some amazing lessons.

“So” ... So What?

Becoming Super Heroes in God’s Eyes

BY STEVE PRINGLE

Mark 10:42-44 (NIV)

“⁴²Jesus called them together and said, ‘You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ⁴³Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.’”

In John 13, as the meal was about to be served, the author writes, “Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under His power, and that He had come from God and was returning to God; *so* He got up from the meal, took off His outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around His waist. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him (vs. 3-5).”

Jesus knew all power had been given to Him, *so* (read “of course”) He donned the towel and washed the nasty, grimy feet of His disciples. Jesus was the leader, the Superpower; and yet, as Paul says, He “made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant”. In God’s economy leaders are the greatest servants; power is found in sacrifice. For Christ this is the most logical conclusion to come to: He knew He had all authority and power, *SO*, of course, He washed feet. Jesus is not above getting dirty. The cross shouts Christ’s passion to serve; it reveals the power of sacrifice.

If you could choose any super power, what would it be? The ability to fly? Make people tell the truth? Run super fast? Shoot lazer beams out of your eyeballs (I never did get that one)? Of course, the logical next question is what would your super-hero super suit look like? What would hang on your utility belt? And possibly the most important question is...what would you do with this all-powerful ability?

The answer to how we might apply this power is found in our character. Would we use it to benefit ourselves, even if this meant taking advantage of or even hurting another? Or would our motives be for the benefit of humankind, the suffering and those in distress? In the comic-book world this is the difference between the super-hero and his “arch-nemesis”. For followers of Jesus, apprentices of Christ, character is essential. Christ’s character serves as an example, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to live out His character.

As I consider Jesus’ super-leader training program, His understanding of power, leadership, character and influence always impresses me.

Recently I was preparing for a class during Easter Week. I was considering the events of Jesus’ final leadership training sessions with His disciples. Jesus packed more into that Passover meal than any other night. He wanted His disciples to have the confidence and courage to carry on and carry out the message of his purpose in his absence.

Reading about his last night with His disciples, I found myself stuck on a word I have read past many times: “so”.

Using a position of leadership to serve is a willful act; it is a decision. What happens when a leader uses his or her position to bless and to serve? The result is influence and authority.

So what is the difference between authority and power? Stephen Hunter makes a clear distinction. Power is the ability to force others to do your will based on position or threat. Authority, on the other hand, “is the skill of getting others willingly to do your will because of your personal influence.” Authority is given to the leader who serves.

Servant leadership is one of the great paradoxes. Servant leadership is the way of God and stems from character. Jesus, the most influential leader who ever lived, never imposed his will, never demanded his way. Instead he embraced sacrifice and called his disciples to follow Him in their character, living lives marked by humility and love.

I believe that the servant leader model is central to God’s desire for how his disciples will respond as leaders when they follow close enough for the dust of his sandals to fall on their faces. The model for servant leadership comes from Jesus Christ himself, and he challenges us to embrace this new paradigm in leadership.

Jesus makes a clear distinction between what has been seen of rulers in positions of power and how it will be in the Kingdom of God. The model Jesus puts forward is based on the shift in two words. Jesus intentionally changed the preposition “over” (v.42) to a different preposition, “among” (v.43).

The difference is simple and clear. In the Kingdom of God, leadership is characterized by not being in a position above or higher than another, but instead in the midst of or surrounded by those who are led.

Leadership in the Kingdom of God is still leadership, but the attitude and character is based on love and humility rather than power and self-promotion. Leadership in the Kingdom is paradoxical: “Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant” (v. 43). Jesus lives out this model of leadership. It is much more than a management style; it is the way of the Kingdom and provides the hope for the future.

What does this have to do with Westside? Everything! We exist to equip servant leaders in God’s kingdom for the next generation by educating and developing the whole person for the glory of God. The core of our purpose as a school is to prepare, equip, and inspire our students to become tomorrow’s leaders in a world that so desperately needs them. This is an awesome responsibility and a worthwhile and challenging task. At the end of the day, we believe that the young people at Westside will change the world of tomorrow, and we hope they will do this with the Kingdom of God in full view.

At Westside we are trying to provide students with the resources and experiences that will help them discover how they will be servant leaders, regardless of their calling. We believe that each student has been called to a specific purpose and mission.

I wonder what kind of super heroes our students will become? When asked what they will have on their utility belt, will they boast a basin for foot washing, and will they don a towel for their super suit? Becoming a servant leader takes supernatural enabling and help. But as Jesus grows in authority in our eyes, “servanthood” will become second nature.

What made Superman so inspiring was that his heroic potential was hidden in the humility of Clark Kent. I think that’s what attracts people to Jesus. God finds humility irresistible. We should, too.



A DOOR CLOSES, A DOOR OPENS.

by Andy Sears

My son just turned four years old in May. We celebrated Jonah's life by inviting a few of his friends and our extended family to a party. At the end of the celebration all of the guests gathered in our family room and presented him with gifts. As the gift opening time drew to a close, Jonah's eyes opened wide with delight as he discovered one final, and unusual, gift — a bird feeder. It was about a month before Jonah's birthday that I first heard him exclaim from our sliding glass door... "Dad, look! A spotted towhee!" Earlier that month my mom had spent time with him looking out her back window, bird book in hand, identifying various species of birds. Since that day he has been passionate about birds and has thoroughly enjoyed spending time at our back window watching them eat from his new feeder.

In mid-July our family vacationed in Sunriver and spent an afternoon floating down the Deschutes River. Midway through our journey, Jonah noticed an eagle soaring above us. We all just stopped for a moment to watch as this huge and powerful bird yielded to the incredible and invisible power of thermal convection currents. Later I read that Eagles can soar at speeds of 35 to 40 miles per hour. The bird seemed to navigate through the sky effortlessly. How is it that such a powerful bird is most powerful and precise in flight



when it is given over to the unseen power of the wind?

Recently I have been reminded that my own self-centered desires can't coexist with Christ within me. I must surrender myself to Christ in the same way that the eagle surrenders to the wind. It is only by the power of Christ in us that the Kingdom of God can occur on earth. This is a spiritual concept that I have been challenged to grow in on a number of fronts this summer.

Isaiah 40:31, Westside's school verse, says, "Those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles. They run and don't get tired; they walk and don't lag behind." (MSG)

In mid-June we learned that our eighteen-month effort to obtain the Sears Armory property was over and that we were not awarded the property. I must admit that I was disappointed by the news.

God in His grace, however, was quick to show me that the Sears property process has prepared the way for Westside's future and is just one part of His greater plan. One of the biggest blessings of this process is that we have formed an amazing and committed team of people to work on the huge task of finding a future home for Westside. Additionally, it has opened the doors to a number of critically important strategic partnerships, provided the opportunity to expand our exposure, and allowed us to build a positive reputation within the city of Portland. Last but not least, the real estate market has shifted in our favor while we have been working on the Sears Amory site.

I believe that we must pursue God's vision for Westside with purity of heart and Christ at the center. While Westside's vision is not about constructing buildings, I am convinced that having our own facility is one key

component to fulfilling our vision of equipping and inspiring the next generation to pursue Christ. Through His transforming power, these students will help bring about the Kingdom of God on earth.

The bottom line is that I am learning to wait on the Lord.

Listen. Pray. Wait.

In His time, and in His way, God will be faithful. Here's one example...

Three years ago a colleague and I were driving a few miles from Westside and noticed a piece of property brimming with potential to be a great school site (quite possibly even superior to the Sears property). Since then, I have periodically called the owners of the property and left messages but have received no response -- no response, that is, until the day we received the final "no" on

the Sears property. On the very day the door was completely closed on the Sears Armory site, and after over a year of leaving messages, I got a voicemail from the owners of this other site expressing their interest in talking with us! God is so good.

I returned their phone call and our facility search team is prayerfully investigating the possibilities of this new site. There are a number of other promising sites in play as well, and we'll bring you up to speed as soon as we know more on all these possibilities.

Listen. Pray. Wait.

The foundational element of Westside's vision is represented by the word LISTEN. This means that we understand the importance of pursuing, above all else, a life that is tuned into and directed by Christ. Without being

led by the Spirit, all that we do and everything that we pursue will be off target.

Isaiah 40 says, "...those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles. They run and don't get tired; they walk and don't lag behind."

Waiting isn't passive. Among other things it requires intention, humility, and faithfulness. Will you join us in praying and waiting patiently on God?

"Teach us, O Lord, the disciplines of patience, for to wait is often harder than to work."

PETER MARSHALL



Quatier Joins the Westside Board

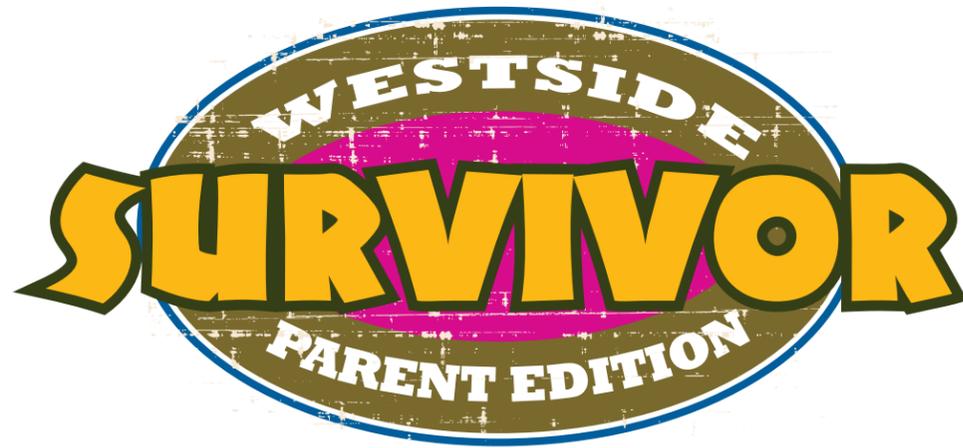
Carolyn Quatier grew up in the west Puget Sound area of Washington State. She graduated from Washington State University in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home and Family Life Education. Carolyn has lived in the Portland-Vancouver area since 1982.

She received Jesus Christ as her savior while a high school student at Malibu in 1977. In addition to teaching the Life Skills course at Westside Christian for the last two years, Carolyn has taught in the Vancouver and Evergreen School Districts in Vancouver. Over the years she has also taught small group sewing lessons in her home.

In 2001, Carolyn co-founded the not-for-profit ministry Northwest Children's Outreach and continues as its President. The Northwest Children's Outreach mission is to stand in the gap between poverty and caring agencies with resources to help meet the needs of children and their families.. Northwest Children's Outreach is an all-volunteer, Christian-founded and led group, desiring to love those in need with the love of Christ. NCO functions out of three metro-area collection and distribution centers, collecting resources for children and distributing the goods to local care providers who meet directly with and prescreen the children.

Carolyn has been married to her husband Dan for 26 years. They have four children. Jacob graduated from WCHS in 2003 and from Whitworth University in 2007. Alyson graduated from WCHS in 2007 and is attending Seattle Pacific University. Emily will be a senior at WCHS, and Andrea will be in the seventh grade at West Hills Christian. Carolyn and her family attend Riversgate Foursquare Church in Multnomah Village.

"It has been a tremendous honor to serve on the faculty at WCHS. I look forward to supporting our school and our mission now as a board member. Our family has been greatly blessed by being a part of the WCHS community. To God be the glory for what He is accomplishing in the lives of students at Westside."



WESTSIDE
SURVIVOR
PARENT EDITION

BY LESLIE HANSCOM

Eighteen years ago the book lying on my bedside table was *What to Expect the First Year*; now it is *1001 Things Every Teen Should Know Before They Leave Home*. Then and now, both books remained virtually unread as what I really needed were books that told me how to get through the next five minutes, be it with a newborn or a teenager.

As Margaret, my oldest, creeps increasingly closer to college entrance in the fall, I have compiled my own list of how to get your teen ready to leave the nest and how to ready yourself for her departure. Let me share my list of ten ways to survive your child's senior year.

1. When the child begins to ask, "Are my sweats clean?" or "Could you not dry that shirt in the dryer?" it is a clear sign that your days as laundry mistress are over. Now is the time, if you have not already done so, to teach him the basics of white versus colored loads and how to balance studying and working while wearing clean clothes.

2. Resist the urge to say at every milestone, "This is the last cross country meet/choir concert/Homecoming," as it drives home that a chapter is ending and an unknown future awaits. You will likely hear in response, "Are you going to spend the whole year saying that?" Furthermore, cry over these milestones in private.

3. Remember that in order to leave the nest, they need to soil the nest, so do not take their attitudes or remarks to heart; hopefully they will give you the same latitude. The ensuing tensions will serve to prompt you as a parent to be ready to push them out of the nest.

4. Be available to listen when they are ready to talk, be it at noon or midnight; just as in infancy they are not conforming to your schedule, but you to theirs. Listening also means just that—keeping quiet to hear their thoughts, concerns, fears and triumphs. Ask the question, "Do you want to know what I think?" before offering your opinion, and do not be surprised if the answer back is, "No."

5. Insist that some family time is non-negotiable, regardless of how much they would rather spend time with friends, and that politeness is sacrosanct within a family regardless of how much parents or siblings drive one crazy. Additionally, continue to insist that handwritten thank you notes are also non-negotiable and will be well received by grandparents or prospective employers.

6. Do not micro-manage their time, their grades or their college applications; this is the time for

them to learn natural consequences and that they can handle their business on their own while they are still under your roof. Resist the temptation to look at Edline regularly as next year, when they are in college, you will not have this opportunity, and there is truth in the statement, "Ignorance is bliss." Remember, no one likes a nag.

7. Have them do the weekly grocery shopping whenever possible, starting with making the list and ending with putting the groceries away. Price comparison, inflation, time involved in choosing the food, bagging the food, putting the food away, and cooking the food becomes a reality. Compliments at the dinner table will increase proportionally.

8. Make sure that they have opened a checking account, a savings account and a ROTH IRA, and are helping to pay for necessities like shampoo, clothing, and gas. At some point during the year, they may remind you that they are eighteen and are technically an adult and can do what they want; at this point you can remind them that they are free to act completely as an adult if they are ready to bear complete financial responsibility for their life.

9. The stewardship of the nation and the world is a responsibility that they share, so have them register to vote, know how to write a letter to the editor, and help decide where the family's charitable contributions will be donated. Be involved with them in a volunteer effort.

10. Tell them how much they are loved and valued, not because of what they have or will accomplish, but just because they were uniquely made in the image of God for a special purpose and plan; who they are is simply good enough. Hug them whenever they will let you.

Now that I am counting the days Margaret has left until she leaves for college, I wonder what I have forgotten to teach her or how I could have been a better parent. There are so many days and events that I would like to have repeated so I could enjoy them all over again. But what I realize most of all as the time runs out is how much I have been changed by the incredible gift of my daughter.

When God blessed me with this child eighteen years ago, little did I know that I would have a greater understanding of Him by seeing His character manifested in her. Her faithfulness, her compassion and her perseverance challenge me daily to be a better person. I understand the Lord's grace because she has often extended it to me when I have been less than a perfect parent. I understand the depth of the sacrifice of His son by the love I have received from Margaret.

Perhaps the book that should be on each of our bedside tables could be *1001 Things Your Child Taught You About Love*.

Since we heard from Margaret's mom, we thought it was only fair that Margaret share her two cents' worth of advice to other Westside students. Here's a sampling...



SURVIVOR
A SENIOR'S WORDS OF WISDOM
BY MARGARET HANSCOM

1. Be willing to take risks and try new things. The more you step out of your comfort zone the larger your zone becomes; what used to be uncomfortable will become ordinary.

2. Attitude is everything. Practice PMA (positive mental attitude).

3. If you don't understand a concept you're learning at school, don't hold back from asking for help. Your teachers are great resources and are more than willing to help.

4. Make an effort to have friends in all different "groups" and cherish their friendship.

5. Have one or two good friends you can rant to. Otherwise, you'll explode.

6. Wise words I learned from my dad: "Work hard, play hard, but don't mix the two".

7. Have a mentor, someone older and wiser from whom you can learn, someone who has already experienced what you are going through and has come out on the other side.

8. Live on the "wild" side. Get at least one detention during your time at Westside. It doesn't take much.

9. Don't be afraid of having "deep" conversations. They are essential for having meaningful relationships and allow you to acquire different perspectives.

10. Go to every Homecoming and Banquet, whether or not you have a date.

11. Have a drawer in your room to fill with all of the encouraging notes you have ever received. On days when you are feeling blue, it is nice to have a convenient supply of kind words from those who love you to brighten your day.

12. Awkward silences really aren't all that awkward.

13. Make a "quote" book with your friends to record all of those "inside jokes" and hilarious moments.

14. Travel and meet different kinds of people. We often put up barriers and form prejudices against people who are unfamiliar to us. If you let those people become familiar, you may realize you actually have a lot in common and your prejudices hold no truth.



YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We are continually striving to reach out to our students and "equip servant leaders in God's Kingdom for the next generation by educating and developing the whole person for the glory of God."

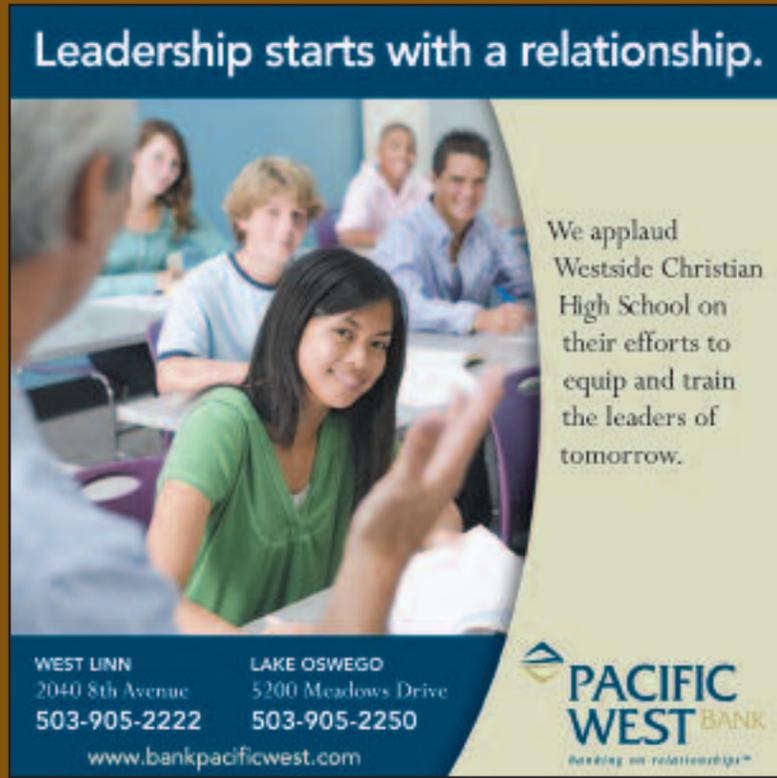
You can be part of that journey. Your gifts will help Westside continue to make progress on the many elements of our strategic plan.

Contact Andy Sears or the Development office with your thoughts on how you'd like to impact tomorrow's leaders today!

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Leadership starts with a relationship.

We applaud Westside Christian High School on their efforts to equip and train the leaders of tomorrow.

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