



SANTIAM CHRISTIAN

Character, Leadership and Community.

FALL 2019

THE EAGLE EYE

HOME OF THE EAGLES



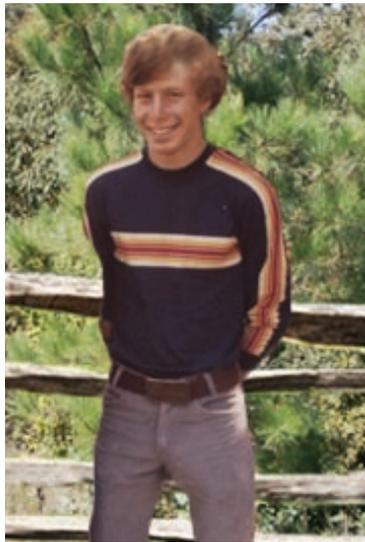
STEP BY STEP

Students from Preschool to 12th grade represent the small steps needed to reach large goals.

Photo by Beth Miller, of e miller photography

ONTO THE NEXT 40

As you can tell from my picture, a lot can change in 40 years. The young man in that picture had no internet access, no cell phone, no remote control for the 13-inch state-of-the-art television in the home, and had to go outside to move the antenna to get different TV stations. Not only



has the world changed drastically in terms of technology, we have seen titanic shifts in family structures, church attendance, social norms, and political affiliations. Last school year, Santiam Christian celebrated our 40th year of operation, with the spring Eagle Eye focusing on God's provision for our school over those years as we underwent change in many different areas.

This edition of the publication looks forward to the next 40 years and the changes that will be necessary to continue to thrive. Four decades ago, none of us could have foreseen what the future would actually hold, and in the same way we look toward the next 40 years knowing that equally dramatic changes will occur, but not knowing exactly what they will look like. We would assume that new and upgraded facilities are a large part of that future plan. Programs and course offerings might look completely different. While our mission to assist parents in the Christian training of their children will not change, how we accomplish that mission may experience major revisions as families adapt to the world we live in. The type of assistance that parents needed 40 years ago might be radically different from what they need for the next 40 years. I see this as the most fundamental shift that Santiam Christian may need to undergo, as we pay attention to changes in our society and how that impacts our families.

Readers of the Bible understand the significance of the number 40, with numerous important events taking place over 40 years or 40 days. Often, this period of time

represented testing or hardship, such as when Jesus fasted in the desert or the Israelites wandered in the wilderness. It can also represent God's provision, demonstrated when He gave them manna to eat or protected Noah and the ark during the days of rain. We recognize that four decades will bring us times of testing while providing multiple opportunities for God to bestow His blessings on us.

One point of emphasis with the students is the importance of small steps and decisions and the role they play in our lives. You can't do much with one brick, but with hundreds of bricks almost anything can be built. Being faithful in the small decisions each day over the next 40 years will enable us to make a large impact.

While facilities, programs, and offerings may change over the next several decades, what must remain unchanged is our belief that God is the reason we are here and He will continue to provide for us or we will not exist. His faithfulness has brought us to where we are today and will continue to lead us into the future. I am excited to think about an administrator at Santiam Christian, 40 years from now, recounting how God has blessed this school for 80 years.



SMALL STEPS: COMMUNITY



One of our greatest strengths as a school is that students of different ages can work together in a mentoring relationship in order to build community. Our high school students are looked up to and respected by elementary kids, and interact with them on a regular basis. High school Cadet Teachers from Mrs. David's class hone their teaching skills by working in different classrooms in the elementary. Our American Sign Language classes work with both the 5th and 6th grades to ignite a passion for learning another language and to understand a small portion of a different culture. Older students present drama productions and musical presentations to the younger ones in an effort to build a desire to participate in those programs. Even within the elementary school itself older pupils work directly with those in lower grades in the reading buddy program. Our 6th grade classes are also in charge of leading worship each week for elementary chapel. We are proud of the fact that our older students can be role models for and influence those younger than them as a foundational part of who we are.

DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION

One of Jesus' last commands to us, known as the Great Commission, is to go and make disciples of all the nations. For most of us, that command is difficult if not impossible to fulfill. However, the international student program at Santiam Christian seeks to live this out through bringing teenagers from all over the world to be a part of the SC community. As one host family said, "We can't all go the nations, but we can choose to bring the nations to us."

Through this program, junior high and high school students live with a host family for time frames of a few months up to several years. They are enrolled in regular classes and are held to similar expectations as the American students, all while reading and writing in a second language. Over the years, hundreds of these students from dozens of countries have added a richness to our student life by bringing a diversity of language, culture, and personalities into our midst.

A common difference that is frequently acknowledged by SC international students is a sense of community and the feeling that they belong. Often, this is different from what they might experience at their school in their home country. They enjoy the sporting events and other activities that our students might take for granted.

When asked about how the SC community has impacted him, SC international student David Choi states, "I think it's great, I really do, because there are good classes like English Language Lab that has helped other students. They have started a new conversation gathering too but I really like it because I am not treated like a foreigner, I am treated like part of the school. In football, they treat me as a member of the team. We all just want to win. This school is a community, it is family."

David's host parents, Russ and Patti Winchester, whose own students graduated from SC years ago, have been hosting international students for 10 years! Patti shares, "We do this because we believe that God has called us to gather people. We love the relationships we've established and for moments when one says, "Mom, I want to ask Jesus into my life". I love being "Mom" to all these boys."

The international student program has been a blessing for all involved. It allows students from all over the world to learn about our lives and has exposed them to the gospel. At the same time we are blessed by the richness and diversity they bring to our lives.



SC International Students:
Chris Park (Korea),
Yunosuke Takeda (Japan),
David Choi (Korea)

SMALL STEPS: NEW STAFF

Santiam Christian is thrilled to welcome these new teachers to our community, and feel blessed by the different gifts, experiences, and perspectives they bring to our school. Just like others already on our staff, they view their jobs as “God’s calling” and not just a paycheck. Some are coming to us from the workforce, others are fresh out of college, and some are parents bringing their teaching skills back into the classroom after time off to raise their own families.

When asked about the calling on his life, junior high Bible teacher Brandon Smith says, “I believe I’m called to communicate God’s joy and delight. I came to Santiam Christian because I was excited about Steve Bittner’s vision for what he wanted to do with Bible classes.” His response was echoed by the joy of elementary technology teacher and kindergarten aide Livi Fisher, “My family has been a part of SC for 12 years and I was a varsity cheer coach last year. I just graduated from the University of Oregon in June, so when this opportunity arose I had to take it! I feel as if I am living my calling now, educating youth and leading kids towards the Lord.”

When it comes to the strength of the SC community high school Spanish teacher Tiffany Weber observes, “Respect is a huge part of community - seeing each other as they are and respecting them and treating them with kindness when their walls are down. I’ve seen kids have bad days in class. I’ve seen girls cry, then immediately see their friends



WELCOME NEW FACULTY & STAFF OF 2019

L to R: Livi Fisher, Elementary Technology; Tiffany Weber, HS Spanish; Cindy Baugher, Kindergarten; Jacob Yoakum, JH/HS Music; Brandon Smith, JH Bible; Josh Swigart, HS Bible/JH Keyboarding; Caroline Ropp, Kindergarten; Dawn Roden, JH Math/Kindergarten Aide; Michelle Cornwell, HS English; (not pictured: Jane Quinn, Elementary Music)

get up and huddle around them to love and support them. I’ve seen students help each other. That’s what community should do.” Kindergarten teacher Caroline Ropp shares, “I see community at SC as a part of the body of Christ. It is made up of many different people with various skill sets. Community here serves a purpose and fosters growth for individuals and families by coming alongside them with grace and love.”

A strong staff is essential to accomplish our mission, and we are excited that God has called each of these new teachers her to be a part of our community.

SMALL STEPS: ALUMNI STAFF

If you visit our campus this fall you will see familiar faces in the form of teachers and staff who graduated from Santiam Christian and have returned to be part of our professional community. These alumni who return to work at SC add another brick that strengthens our foundation.

“My husband and I are both products of Christian education and graduates of SC. Before ever having kids we always knew that the only place for them would be in Christian schools, with SC being at the top of our list. Christian education brings so much to our lives - obviously, classrooms that are teaching and modeling the life of Jesus is also extremely important. But

in addition to that, our kids are finding friends who also love Jesus and are surrounded by other families that I can trust to build into my kids’ lives and care for them. You can’t put a dollar amount on what that means to my husband and me,” shares teacher Mac McLain.

When it comes to the importance of community SC alum and teacher Mindy Athwaite says, “Building community at SC is a privileged experience. It means that each student is in your care, when you are in that area. Whenever I’m on campus away from the preschool, I’m giving out encouragement, hugs and checking in to get to know the rest of our students in the elementary, junior high, and high school. On the flip side, I try to offer support and friendship to parents of my students and parents of my kids’ friends. Being on campus is half the battle of being connected. You experience the day to day, academics, sports, arts and music, and the field trips (or special activities). At that point, you get to know each and every kid walking around to help you build trust and community. I personally feel safe to leave my kids on campus with parents or teachers. SC IS family.”

Each and every day we strive to balance overall academic rigor with individual accomplishment, Christian world-view with cultural influence, our sense of community and family with the needs of each one. Alumni who have returned to be a part of our community are a large part of how we do this.



L to R: Heidi (Stutzman) Grosenbach '84, Mac (Martin) McLain '97, Josh Swigart '16, Joe Cook 5th grade, Tiffany (Land) Braun '08, Mindy (Tobey) Aithwaite '94 (not pictured: Camille (Boshart) Bergh '06, Suzanne (Moe) Gilder '92, Vanessa (Howell) Thomas '00, Becca (Boddy) Baker '09, Cody Manzi '13, Wendi (Miller) Farris '97, Heidi (Kenyon) Burkholder '96, Beth (Springer) Miller '95



The Boshart Family. Shelly '98 (Boshart) Davis family, Katie '05 (Boshart) family, Stan and Lori Boshart, Ola '99 (Boshart) Bachofner family, Camille '06 (Boshart) Bergh family, Amos Boshart '11 family

Photo by Lacey White Photo Co.

SMALL STEPS: LEGACY

Forty years ago Santiam Christian was founded by farm families, and many of those families still support this school. Representative of this support is the Boshart family, with the third generation of Boshart's currently enrolled at SC. With their prayers, time, and finances, they demonstrate daily their commitment to and belief in this school.

Lori Boshart shares, "I love the verse from Proverbs 13:22, 'A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children.' Many believe an inheritance is only about money, but I believe leaving an inheritance and a legacy go hand in hand. It's about passing on things that have value like following God's path, the importance of prayer, the time spent with family, about living how you want people to remember you when you're gone, about loving God and loving our family and loving others. And that is what SC is teaching our kids today. The legacy that began with my parents sending my brothers to Santiam Christian led to us sending our 5 kids to SC, and has been followed by having all seven of our grandchildren attending school there this year. What an incredible legacy for our family, we are blessed beyond what we deserve. And SC has been a part of our blessing for 4 generations now. Amazing, God is Good!"

Lori also explains why their family invested the time and resources to drive 26 miles each way to school, even during trying times. "We didn't plan on sending our kids to SC at all, but God had a different plan, a better plan than ours," she said. Continuing, she stated, "At the time in 1993, we

had three kids in public school; all three of them were struggling with something at their current school. Our 7th grader had an older student stalking her, our kindergartner was physically sick because she couldn't handle being around the older students with a vocabulary she'd not heard before, and then our 6th grader came home telling us how the student sitting next to her in band had a loaded gun in his instrument case. That's when we felt the tug to send them to SC. Santiam Christian wasn't unknown to us, my parents and my brother Dick were part of the first class to move from Albany Christian to the upper grades at an Albany Church, and then to the current campus in Adair. So, we'd been traveling out to SC for many functions long before our kids began attending. But when we felt that tug to switch them to Santiam Christian, we had no idea where the funds for 5 kids' tuition would come from, but thankfully we followed God's lead and we placed the need for paying tuition in God's hands. Was it easy? Absolutely not! But the hard times we had have been replaced by wonderful memories of our children's days at SC."

Legacy is another little thing that makes our foundation strong. As you have read on the other page, some of those original families have alumni children who chose to get their degree and teach here. Another big step that deepens the foundation that God uses to grow Santiam Christian.

SANTIAM CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

7220 NE Arnold Avenue
Adair Village, Oregon 97330

THE EAGLE EYE

Contributors Lance Villers, Sami Beam, Raelyn Riedlinger,
Jennifer Preston, Liz Doyle

Design Stacy Rogers

Photos Leah Greene, e miller photography, Lacey White Photo Co.

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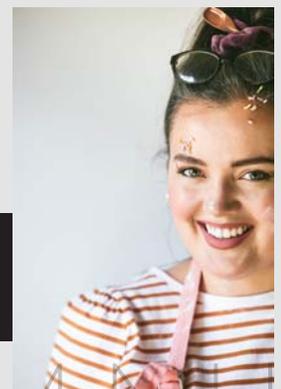


ALUMNI,

We know where these two SC Alum are, but where are you?
Let us know at development@santiam.org



Jackson Michelson '06
jacksonmichelson.com



Karlee (Sisler) Flores '04
[@oliveandartisan](https://www.instagram.com/oliveandartisan)

PLEASE GIVE

Did you know many of our founders and alumni families still donate to our school? They lived the history and know that staff and parents continue to make financial sacrifices today. We know this has always been and will continue to be God's school. Please prayerfully consider giving to our general or scholarship fund at:

SANTIAMCHRISTIAN.ORG/GIVING

ALUMNI