LARAMIE CHRISTIAN May 2022 THE BEACON



Laramie Christian Academy's Newsletter

At last the wall was completed to half its height around the entire city, for the people had worked with enthusiasm.- Nehemiah 4:6

ENABLE COMPUTER LAB PROGRAM NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

Last year Laramie Christian Academy utilized the TerraNova test for our standardized testing largely because it had a Bible assessment in addition to traditional academic subjects. While we valued this feature, we discovered that as a nationally based assessment, it was out of touch with where local students are expected to perform and its norms were several years behind where we wanted to measure. As a result, we inquired about Wyoming State standardized testing and found that the WYTOPP was available for students at Laramie Christian Academy.

While the first-year set-up for WYTOPP was quite extensive, requiring patience, lengthy trainings, and many calls with test venders for initial access, we did get into the last of three, testing windows for the academic year. LCA students were able to participate in the Spring Summative (grades 3-8) and Spring Interim (K-2) assessments.



WYTOPP assessments are online and taken on a computer through a secure browser. The Summative assessments are adaptive, asking subsequent questions based on responses to previous questions, enabling the assessment to accurately reflect what students know. Results for spring assessments are available in Fall 2022, most likely at first quarter parent teacher conferences.

In response to our need for computer stations, parents and families loaned laptops to the Academy for student use during the testing week. We are so thankful to all who loaned us computers!! Thank you again so much!! What a blessing to have such a responsive and generous parent community.

In addition, two Chromebooks were donated to LCA for future student use. This donation, combined with previous laptop donations this year and last year, bring our student laptop workstation count, up to one station per student in a class enabling LCA to offer a Mobile computer lab next year. The computers will travel to each class throughout the week enabling instruction on home-key typing, word processing, excel, publisher and other necessary computer skills for academic success. We may even be able to offer Yearbook editing course for our upper classes. We are very excited about this development and look forward to student growth in these skills.

ARE YOU TECH/MECHANICAL SAVVY?

LCA is in need of volunteers:

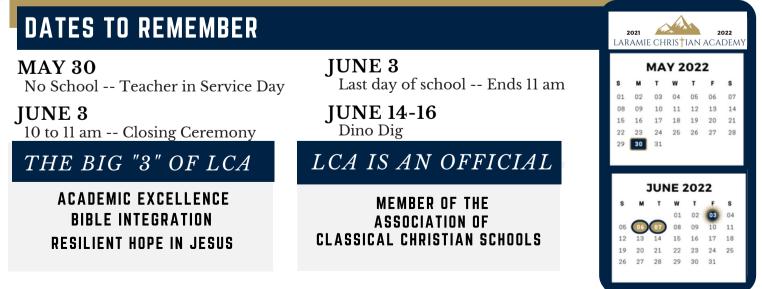
<u>Tech savvy parent/s</u> who can help keep our laptops up to date. Needs include:

- run software updates weekly,
- help purchase and install more memory for certain workstations,
- help us fix a broken screen, trouble shoot a battery charging issue, etc.

<u>Ebay Seller</u> willing to part out our broken copier. (When our old copier died, used drums for the model were selling on Ebay for \$500 to \$800; the copier has 3 good drums.) Needs include:

• part out this broken copier's drums and other in-demand parts so that we can apply the funds to LCA scholarships for next school year.

If you are interested in helping with either of these two needs, please contact the office. Thank you!





FIELD TRIP TO SUGAR MOUSE CUPCAKE HOUSE

Our field trip the Sugar Mouse Cupcake House was a sweet learning excursion. Ruth Williams, owner and proprietor of the Sugar Mouse, treated LCA students to a tour of the shop, the kitchen, and a narrative of her business vision. Memories from her childhood of a kind man who shared sugar mouse candies with her are part her inspiration for the name Sugar Mouse. Still impacted today by his caring actions, Williams runs the Cupcake house with needy children in mind. Ruth founded 'heart mothers' a group of over 100 women who support, and mentor children rescued from the abomination of sex trafficking in Cambodia. She originally started by making cupcakes to sell at farmers markets in order to raise money for these children and eventually opened a store front. Williams shared that the cost of one cupcake will feed one child a day in the orphanage she started, which is now run by the Cambodian government.

Students were most impacted by Ruth's stories of kindness shared with her as a child (through the sugar mouse candies), kindness withheld from her as a child (when a friend's parent told her to go change into a "nice dress" because her best dress wasn't fancy enough), and kindness she looks for as an adult (the most important qualification she seeks when hiring an employee at the Cupcake House). Impressed by the huge quantity of ingredients found in the kitchen, students marveled at the "butter fridge," the large bags of flour and sugar, and tubs of the "secret ingredient" all required to make the cupcakes. Ruth treated LCA students to a sampling of her favorite British candy and then hosted a small tea party for students complete with real China. Students sipped not on tea however, but chocolate milk as Ruth observes it is more favored by children in general. Our sweetest field trip of the year was certainly a hit for all.

LCA STUDENTS CLEAN UP LARAMIE

LCA Students participated with the City of Laramie in Laramie Clean-Up Days. Every spring the town of Laramie encourages residents to pick up trash in and around Laramie. Clubs, schools, churches, families and anyone interested join together to help collect that windblown escaped debris we see laying round town.

Students picked up trash along 'Trail Hill," frontage next to the Academy, and the fence at the old athletic fields. Many marveled at how quickly the bags filled up and how large the items found were. The City of Laramie provided all vests and bags as well as hauled off the trash when we finished. It felt great to contribute to cleaning up our town.





LARAMIE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

WHAT FAMILIES SAY ABOUT LCA

- Our children have grown socially, spiritually, and academically. The teachers are amazing and it is a great environment. We love LCA and look forward to continuing to be a part of it!
- We have been blessed by being able to continue with a Christian education outside of homeschooling, which does not work well with all kids at home at once.
- Our child is growing and flourishing. We also love the solid education students receive from a biblical perspective.

