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(for the fiscal year 2007-2008)

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Wayne Presbyterian Church, Wayne, PA
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We also thank our over 400 individual donors whose names we are unable to fit in this space.

Building Renovation Update

At an estimated cost of \$500,000, Phase 1 of the Cornerstone Facility Improvement Plan will begin in June 2008. The summer projects will include the library expansion, and exterior improvements on the two main buildings: stone-pointing and window replacements, gutter and downspout replacements.

In 2003, thousands of volunteer hours were spent restoring the library. This summer, the south wall of the library will be opened and an addition constructed that will increase the library's useable space by providing a reading and tutoring room. Currently, many of our volunteers scramble each day to find room to help students with Math or Reading. The library expansion will help resolve this problem by providing work space for students and volunteers. The project will be completed by volunteers from Wayne Presbyterian Church and Harrisonburg (VA) Mennonite Church. The estimated cost of approximately \$30,000 has been fully funded by contributions from Wayne Presbyterian Church members.

Restoration of the exterior of our facilities will vastly improve the outside appearance of the school. Included in the work, at an estimated cost of \$450,000, will be the re-pointing and repair of the beautiful stone on the buildings, as well as installation of aluminum clad replacement windows and new gutters and downspouts. Board members and friends have contributed or promised nearly \$350,000 toward these projects.

Phases 2 and 3 of the capital campaign will include the addition of a link to join the two buildings together, followed by the complete renovation of the interiors of the buildings. The projected cost of these phases totals nearly \$5 million. Although the cost is high, the work is essential in order to insure the ongoing quality of Cornerstone's academic programs for future generations. For additional information contact Dick Ollinger, President/CEO at 215-724-6858, ext. 232 or rrollinger@cornerstonephiladelphia.com.



P.O. Box 5520
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Academic excellence and
spiritual maturity since 1988

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CORNERSTONE CHALLENGE

Spring 2008



Dear Friends,

As the school year comes to a close, all of us at Cornerstone Christian Academy express our appreciation to the hundreds of friends near and far away who are supporting our educational ministry with prayers, volunteer time, and generous financial gifts. With your help, Cornerstone continues to be a beacon of hope for children living in a high at-risk community.

We were blessed to serve nearly 215 children during the 2007-08 school year, our highest enrollment in many years. Twenty-two of these students are in the graduating Class of 2008. We are proud that most of these graduates will be attending highly selective high schools next fall.

Because of your generosity, we were able to provide approximately \$700,000 in scholarship support to our students. This is support that is absolutely essential in order to make a quality Christian education affordable for the families we serve. This need will continue as we have already promised nearly that same amount for the 2008-09 school year!

At Cornerstone we believe that education, along with the gospel, is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty, crime, and violence so prevalent in the City of Philadelphia. By providing a safe, academically challenging, highly disciplined, and Christ-centered educational environment, we are inspiring young urban men and women to rise above their surroundings and achieve their highest potential.

Our students are encouraged to truly believe they can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens them. And, there is evidence that they do indeed embody this belief.

For example, Gregory and Steven McFarland are two Cornerstone alumni who are excelling in high school. Greg is an honor student at Philadelphia Mennonite High School and his younger brother Steve is an honor student at Bodine High School. Both boys credit Cornerstone for not only their solid academic preparation but also their strong faith foundation. Recently, Steve, whose dream is to one day become President of the United States, was our guest speaker in weekly chapel. In his message to our students he said, *"Follow your dreams! Be what you want to be in life and do it to the glory of God. No good thing will God hold from you. So, keep your dreams alive. But, understand, to achieve your dreams requires faith in God and in yourself, as well as vision, hard work, determination and dedication. Remember, all things are possible for those who believe."*

These are the kind of students your prayers and your contributions are helping to shape. They are students who are growing up in a very challenging environment, but who are confident that they can rise above their circumstances and do great things for God with their lives. Please keep praying for our students, and please continue to give generously for the quality education they are receiving at Cornerstone.

Gratefully,

Dick Ollinger, President/CEO



From the desk of

Deborah Lee

Principal and Reading Specialist



Dear Partners and Friends,
The end of the academic year has arrived at Cornerstone, and while the bulk of students' studies and tests are behind them, the end of the year brings much activity and excitement. Not only are our students working hard at taking their Terra Nova standardized tests, they are putting forth their best efforts towards ending this fourth quarter with high academic achievement. Our recent awards ceremony recognized students in each grade who

continue to show exemplary grades, character, and improvement.

The upcoming weeks bring opportunities for students to celebrate the end of the year. **Field Day** will bring together the entire student body to participate and compete in a day of athletic games and team sports, with the goal of team-building, good-sportsmanship, and physical fitness. **International Day** will introduce students to cultures other than their own. Each CCA class will be assigned to a country for which they will prepare a presentation. Each class rotates amongst different classrooms, learning about each country and also enjoying food from different areas of the world. The **Sports Banquet** will recognize all those students who participated in indoor soccer and basketball this school year. Each student will be recognized for their participation, in addition to special awards given for MVP, Most Improved, and Best Sportsmanship. Finally, we will recognize our kindergarten and eighth grade students at **graduation ceremonies**. Without the support of faculty, staff, parents, volunteers, financial supporters, The Board of Trustees, and a host of others, we wouldn't be able to help provide opportunities for CCA students to be, what we believe, are some of the brightest kids in Philadelphia.

IN FOCUS: The Cornerstone story is diverse and unfolding before our eyes: students, parents, staff and friends making a difference together.



Cornerstone and Paoli Presbyterian Church collaborated on May 2, 2008 for a benefit concert featuring **Cornerstone's Voices in Praise Choir, Rodgers Creative Movement for Christ, and the PPC Youth and Cherub choirs**. It was a beautiful evening as students of all ages shared their gifts of song and dance with those in attendance. All proceeds from the concert were donated to CCA's Student Scholarship Fund. Pictured above left, **Mrs. Connie Harper** directs the children of both choirs as they sing a final song together, "Hail Jesus, You're My King." 7th grade students **Temple Pitkow and Patience Dennis** (middle) participate in a group discussion on bullying, as **Ella McEwen** of Belfast, Northern Ireland looks on. Both Ella and former Cornerstone intern **Kellie Turtle** travelled from Ireland to do a series of workshops on peacemaking and bullying prevention with all classes. Pictured at the left is **Jon Drummond**, Olympic gold and silver medalist in track, speaking to students about his career as an athlete. Mr. Drummond shared how he became an Olympian and the role his mother played in his success.



Student Sightings

National Day of Prayer 2008



CCA observed the National Day of Prayer on May 1, 2008 with a school-wide and community celebration. Above, **Mr. Camissa** helps students nail their written prayers to a cross. Below, Mrs. Cooper's dance group **Rodgers Creative Movement for Christ** (combined K-4th graders) performs a praise dance.



CONNECTING TO CORNERSTONE

Our vision is for you to be included in creating a quality educational environment. Here's how you can help during 2007-2008:

Volunteer Opportunities: There are numerous projects always in progress. Contact our Volunteer Coordinator Erica Cheslock, 215.724.6858 x233, echeslock@cornerstonephiladelphia.com.

Financial Support: you can give immediately by enclosing your gift in the envelope provided.

You can also give by:

Stock: transfers in 48 hours

Corporate Match: ask your employer about a dollar-for-dollar match of your gift.

Educational Improvement Tax Credit: corporate donors may qualify for 90% in tax credits from the State of Pennsylvania.

United Way of Tri-state: you are eligible if you work in New Jersey, New York or Connecticut.

In-kind Gifts: see the wish list on our website for needed supplies.

Come visit us-Cornerstone 101: Come take a student-led tour of Cornerstone on the first Friday of the month at 9 a.m., or contact us to schedule a tour at any time. (June 6, Sept. 5, Oct. 3)

Staff Snapshots

Get to know those that serve our students!

Vincent Russo

Mr. Russo is completing his first year of teaching 5th grade at CCA. Previous to coming to CCA, he served 18 years as a pastor, 17 years in public education, and 3 years as a Wall Street banker. Mr. Russo has a BA in Psychology from St. Francis College and a M.Ed from Widener University, as well as an MDiv in Bible and Theology. "I hope, through God's grace and His Word, to channel my students energy into positive attitudes and actions."



Rhonda Roberts

Mrs. Roberts is completing her first year as the Office Manager for CCA, although she is not a stranger to Cornerstone. Mrs. Roberts served as the chapel pianist for 3 years and still continues that ministry. She has a BA in Communications from Temple University, as well as extensive experience in an office setting. "This is an assignment where I can impact the lives of parents, children, and staff by being diligent in my responsibilities."



Give back the give-back

If you have not received it by now, you will receive it soon - the Federal Government's tax stimulus checks! We are asking that Cornerstone partners consider *tithing* up to 10% of their rebate checks for the Student Scholarship Fund.