

SERVANTHOOD: "IT'S NOT ABOUT ME..."

Dear Friends of Westgate,

There have made many changes at WCA over the past seven months.

Parent Workshops, Invention Clubs, Fitness Boot Camps, After School Programs (sports and music), and Family Events (apple picking, U.S.S. Massachusetts overnight, the International Festival and Silent Auction). Many of these changes and additions helped to energize our sense of community and to help us understand that we are part of something larger.

We have also made the conscious decision to be more focused on **service** this year and to create an environment that teaches by example that, in life, it's not about "me." **We are learning to serve one another and to reach out to the broader community.**

With that in mind, rather than our "service" taking place on just one day, we chose to incorporate regular outreach opportunities throughout the entire year for our students (faculty and families). In the fall, our students took part in clearing away debris, trash, and trees from elderly resident's yards and the common grounds like public trails. In February, our students spent a Valentine's Day afternoon with the residents of the Heritage Assisted Living Center in Framingham.

Last Spring, we began something unique in transitioning away from the golf-a-thon and walk-a-thon as a fundraising activity. Instead, we held a "Serv-a-thon." The concept introduced a spiritual dimension to our fundraising efforts, but didn't go far enough. True service can not be a competitive enterprise, and while the children learned the importance of serving the community, on some level it was still "about me"—winning the prize for the student who gets most pledges or for the class with the best decorated bulletin board.

So, this year our theme is true servanthood. Gone are the green t-shirts and the contests; gone the vying to see who can earn the "most." Our goal is to cultivate a generation of students that embodies teamwork, leadership and civic responsibility, not one that ties acts of service into "what's in it for me?" This year, on Friday, May 8th, with very little fanfare, the children will focus on solely on serving. Our teams of volunteers will spend the better part of the school day meeting the expressed needs of our school and the town of Natick.


"Teacher, what is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind. And, love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37 and 29.

We are making changes that simultaneously impact our community and develop servant leaders for the future. To do so, the school—not the children—must continue to raise funds each Fall and Spring. We're praying that you'll recognize YOUR part in all this. **If you are encouraged by the changes we have made, and desire to continue to support WCA as we pursue His mission of reaching outward, serving and loving our neighbors, would you help us towards our goal of raising \$50,000 in May?** Please feel free to use the attached form for your donation, or you may donate by credit card using our automated PayPal feature located under the "Support" icon on the new WCA website: www.westgateacademy.org.

All contributions are greatly appreciated. Your donation of \$50, \$100, \$500 –or other amount-- will help us meet our needs for the remainder of the year and be used to touch the lives of many children and families in the form of educational programs and scholarships.

It is with unending gratitude that we thank you for your prayerful support.

Sincerely


Rev. Larry Loring
WCA Headmaster


Doran Abel
Chairman, WCA Board of Trustees



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