

# CHALKBOARD

SPRING 2026



wheaton christian  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

est. 1942

# A WORD FROM MR. BROOKE



During the month of March our faculty and staff had the privilege of hearing a devotional on Psalm 23. This Psalm is one that has been in front of our community before, but I wanted to highlight it as we move into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of this school year. Psalm 23 speaks of incredible dependence and trust in the Lord, and this type of reliance on the Lord is one of my prayers for our community here at WCGS.

## Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,  
He refreshes my soul.  
He guides me along the right paths  
for His name's sake.  
Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies.  
You anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely your goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
forever.

This past month I had a student articulate the goodness and love of our Father, and it reminded me of the last verse of this beautiful Psalm. I am so thankful that the truth of God's character is being taught to the next generation and can only imagine how those seeds will flourish in the days and years ahead!

The WCGS community of prayer warriors has always been something I admire. I invite you to join us in praying that our faculty, staff, families, students, alumni, and broader community know how good the Shepherd truly is. May the words of the Psalmist, David, encourage you as you read about what is happening at WCGS.

Jeff Brooke  
Head of School

3rd grade



CHICAGO



DAY





“I learned that knowing more about my community helps me spread God’s love more.”  
-Emerson



“If I know more about my city then I can be better at serving people in it.”  
-Pennie



“I loved learning about the history of Chicago including the Chicago Fire and how the city got its name.”  
-Judah



The Windy City. The Second City. The City of Big Shoulders. Hog Butcher to the World.

Just 27 miles away from Wheaton Christian Grammar School, Chicago stands as America’s third largest city, a hub for culture and full of unique history. This year, WCGS third-grade teachers introduced a new tradition within their annual Illinois unit: Chicago Day!

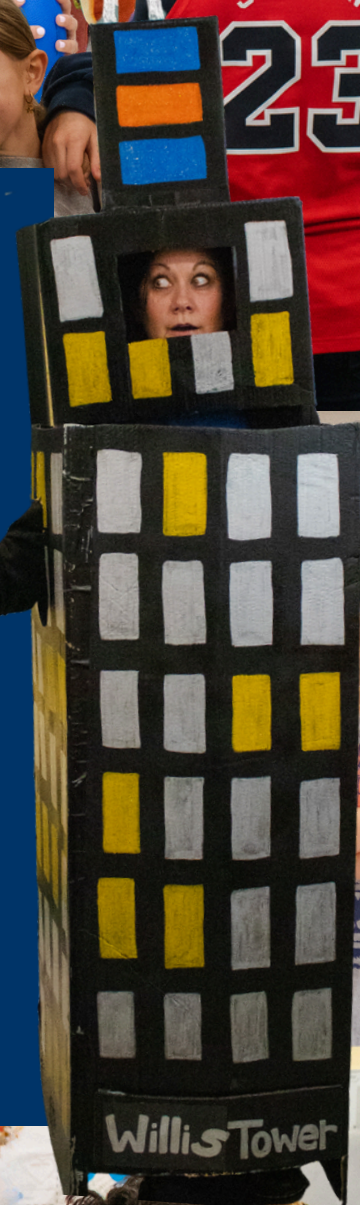
Rooted in both community building and Christ-centered identity, Chicago Day was designed to deepen students’ understanding of the city while connecting to their faith. As the third-grade team shared, “We have always taught a social studies unit on Illinois. However, this year’s new curriculum really emphasizes the uniqueness of Chicago. In connection with our year verse about ‘following and fishing,’ we wanted our students to better understand their community so they can more effectively share the gospel with others.”



At WCGS, education goes beyond the classroom—it is about shaping students into Christ-followers who engage the world with wisdom and compassion. By learning about a city so close to home, students gained a broader perspective of the communities around them. Chicago Day was more than just a day of themed activities, it was an opportunity to see how learning can point outward, equipping students to love and serve their neighbors, and ultimately embody Christ.

As for the day itself, the agenda included various stations in classrooms and the Innovation Hub. The 3rd graders were able to play sports, participate in trivia, and, of course, represent Chicago with their favorite jerseys. Teachers, parents, and students all contributed to making the day memorable and exciting. One of the highlights for the teachers was being able to see how “the personal experiences and deep connections allowed students to showcase what they learned with others.”

The response to this new event was overwhelmingly positive, and Chicago Day will now become an annual tradition! Looking ahead, the teachers hope to expand the experience by incorporating more service opportunities and inviting members of the WCGS community who have connections to Chicago to share their stories.





# STUDENT LIFE at WCGS



Where **FAITH**  
inspires **LEARNING**





“WCGS is way more than a school, it’s like a second home, and it always will be. I love it here!”

**-Moriah, 8<sup>th</sup> grade**



# BUILDING COMMUNITY ACROSS GENERATIONS



& MARILYN HIMMEL'S  
**41** YEAR LEGACY





**Just down the road from Wheaton Christian Grammar School is Windsor Covenant Senior Living. On a rainy afternoon in March, the halls of Windsor were filled with the sounds of middle school musicians tuning their instruments in anticipation of a special performance for our senior neighbors.**

**At WCGS, our students are encouraged to live out their faith by becoming the hands and feet of Jesus, beginning right in their own community. Through intentional opportunities, they are equipped to use their God-given gifts academically, relationally, and creatively in service to others. One meaningful expression of this is the annual visit from the junior high orchestra, who travel to Windsor to perform a concert for residents.**

**Among those residents in attendance was Marilyn Himmel, a beloved former teacher whose legacy is deeply tied to the heritage of WCGS. Marilyn joined the school in 1955, shortly after graduating from Wheaton College. Her journey to WCGS is a testament to God's provision and faithfulness. After receiving a rejection letter from a position in Indiana, Marilyn found herself uncertain about what was next. "I told God that I was tired of looking. If He wants me teaching, he will have to make a way," she recalled. That very day, she received a call from then Head of School, Mary Ross, offering her a teaching position at WCGS for a combined 5th and 6th grade class. "I just knew it, right then, that it was God's answer, and I said 'yes!'"**

**Marilyn faithfully served as a 5th grade teacher at WCGS for 41 years before retiring in 1996. During her time, she taught generations of students, including current Head of School, Jeff Brooke, and Principal, Marc Painter. Though nearly three decades have passed since her retirement, Marilyn's love for WCGS has not faded. "I love the school, and I pray for it at least once a week, often more. I loved teaching there." She continues to pray regularly for the school and reflects with gratitude on her years in the classroom and is encouraged by the school's commitment to student spiritual formation.**



“

**I love the school, and I pray for it at least once a week, often more. I loved teaching there.**

**-Marilyn Himmel ”**

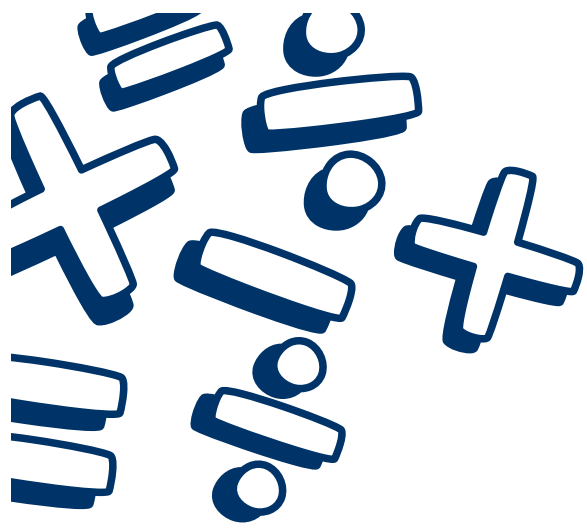
Now serving on the resident committee at Windsor, Marilyn plays an active role in promoting the orchestra's visit. She eagerly invites fellow residents to attend, knowing the joy it brings. The concert is more than a musical performance; it is a bridge between generations. Students not only share their talents, but also take time to sit, listen, and engage in meaningful conversation with residents. "I was glad that we could meet and play for the people at Windsor. It was really nice to talk to them and make them joyful while we were playing" said eighth grader, Brendan.

The impact is mutual. Residents are deeply encouraged by the presence of young people living out their faith, while students walk away shaped by participating in service opportunities. Many students reflected on the conversations they had, moments filled with connection and joy. "The people here really love seeing young people," said Himmel. Students even asked residents about their favorite hymns, connecting over their common love of music. "Though it's my first year taking the orchestra, I know Wheaton Christian has always had strong connections with Windsor, and I hope to continue the tradition!" said Val Terdina, the orchestra teacher.

Experiences like these reflect the heart of WCGS: a Christ-centered community where students are formed not only in knowledge, but in compassion, humility, and service. Through simple yet meaningful moments, WCGS students are reminded that every generation has value, and every act of service is an opportunity to reflect the love of Christ.



**"Though it's my first year taking the orchestra, I know Wheaton Christian has always had strong connections with Windsor, and I hope to continue the tradition!"**  
**-Val Terdina, Orchestra Teacher**



**200+**  
Kids in  
Attendance!



**The 3rd Annual**

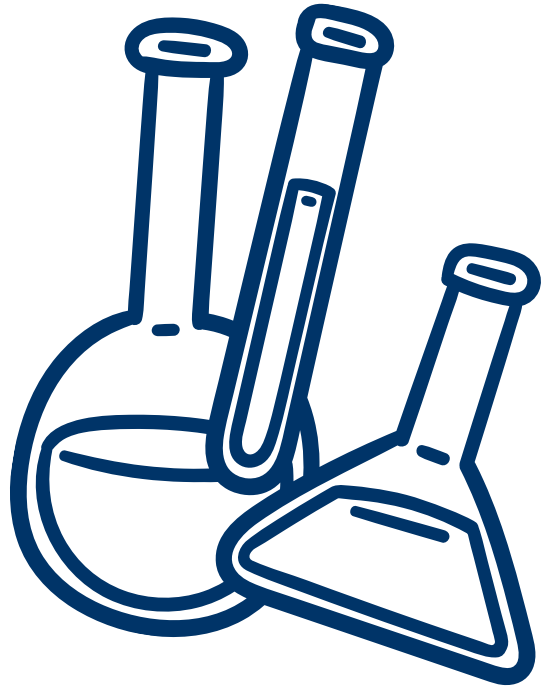
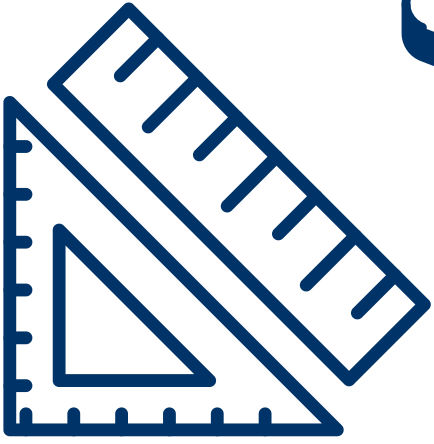
# STREAM

Science Technology Reading Engineering Art Math

# FAIR



**12**  
Interactive  
Stations



# Exploring Gods Creation in a Creative Way

God has made us curious and creative.

The Annual STREAM Fair, originally started in 2019, was once again able to capture the hearts and minds of parents and students alike with creative and engaging activities that focus on science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math. Traveling from various stations and booths, the students were able to engage in integrated learning and answer questions like: “What Do Engineers Do? How Does Electricity Work? How Does Light Refraction Work?”

For the fair, Director of Curriculum, Sue Macaluso, and STREAM Coordinator, Jacqueline Lauriat, wanted to build upon the STEM programming that was already in place by creating a unique and memorable experience for students. Mrs. Lauriat said “As I worked with students in 6th and 7th grade, I found that many of them would have benefited from having more opportunities to engage in STEM at an earlier age. I had read a research article that also supported this. It said providing access to STEM activities will increase elementary students interest in pursuing STEM careers. I had seen this in action with my students and parents at WCGS. We asked our science teachers, school nurse, and many parents who were in STEM fields to host a booth. We had a great response.”

The STREAM fair is a great opportunity to involve the community at various levels. This year, the DuPage Regional Office of Education STEM was able to join us, as well as other partners like the Lutheran Therapy dog Association, the Wheaton Academy Zoo, and SciZooka, a STEM based book fair. SciZooka offers trade books in all areas of STEM along with hands-on experiments. This allows students to walk away with something that they can interact with even after the fair. “One of the most powerful changes that I have witnessed is the desire for junior high students to come volunteer for the event. The robotics team and Creation Care members help set up the event, run various tables, and help clean up. By volunteering their time, it allows them to inspire the next generation to get excited about robotics, caring for creation, and getting involved within our STEM programming at WCGS” says Mrs. Lauriat.

Not only does WCGS aim to develop the minds and spirits of each one of their students, but the school also hopes that events like the STREAM Fair can be an educational event for the whole family. “Every year, without fail, parents are grateful for an educational event that the whole family can enjoy. They say it builds curiosity, play, and exposes children to fields that are their future,” says Mrs. Lauriat. “My favorite part is watching the junior high students teach, guide, and facilitate concepts to parents, their peers, and younger students. Some of the students even design their own activities. The skills of public speaking, leadership, and organization are invaluable as they transform the kingdom for Christ.”



# Missions Month



We are passionate about the spiritual growth of our students. In addition to biblically integrated curriculum and instruction, we strive to provide a variety of opportunities to nurture the whole child. This year, our annual Missions Week expanded into Missions Month! Throughout March, Wheaton Christian Grammar School intentionally created opportunities for students to broaden both their global and local perspectives on ministry. While missions are often thought of as global, our desire is for students to understand that they can be missionaries right in their own communities.

This year's theme was "Unashamed," rooted in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes." Our prayer is that students would grow in their understanding of the gospel and see how God can work in and through them.

Throughout the month, students participated in chapels, heard from a variety of missionary speakers, and engaged in meaningful service projects at every grade level. Kindergarten students visited Build-A-Bear to create gifts for children served by Safe Families. First graders cleaned the lockers of their fifth-grade buddies as an act of service, while second graders made crafts to encourage the elderly. Fifth graders wrote encouraging notes to former WCGS students now serving as missionaries. Third, fifth, and seventh graders served at Phil's Friends, preparing care packages and writing notes to cancer patients. Fourth and sixth graders volunteered at Feed My Starving Children, and eighth graders participated in a variety of service projects, including serving at homeless shelters.

At our closing chapel, a second grader beautifully captured the heart of Missions Month by reflecting on her service project with the words, "We want Heaven to be really crowded." An eighth-grade student also shared how, during a conversation with a resident at the homeless shelter, he felt God impress three truths on his heart: to thank the Father daily for what he has, that joy does not come from material things, and that God cares about everyone. Together, these reflections are a powerful reminder of how God is shaping our students' hearts for His people and His mission.





# A heritage of prayer

**This March, WCGS celebrated a meaningful milestone - the 100th Father's Prayer Breakfast! For years, this cherished tradition has gathered fathers in the Commons to connect, be encouraged, and pray for their children, families, and school community. The morning was especially significant as we welcomed back former Assistant Principal and School Counselor, Roger Burgess, who faithfully led these gatherings for many years, along with former Head of School, Steve Clum. Their presence was a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness through this ongoing legacy. What began as a simple rhythm of breakfast, Scripture, and prayer has become a powerful tradition. One hundred gatherings later, this legacy of prayer continues to shape not only the fathers who attend, but the families and students they faithfully lift up in prayer.**





# CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

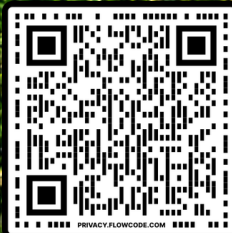
## *Auxiliary Events*

The WCGS Auxiliary recently hosted two memorable events that brought our community together in meaningful ways. First, the Daddy Daughter Night filled the room with joy as dads and their daughters shared a special evening together. With dancing, crafts, sweet treats, and photos, the night was a celebration of these cherished relationships and the gift of time spent together!

Following that, the Ladies' Salad Social brought women from across the school together for an evening of worship, fellowship, and encouragement. Centered on the theme "Jesus Christ: Our Anchor" from Hebrews 6:19, guest speaker, Angelica Perry, inspired attendees to rest in the hope and steadfastness found only in Christ.

Both events were a beautiful reminder of the connected community we are grateful to share at WCGS!

# ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING



CANTIGNY GOLF



JUNE 2ND, 2026

## REGISTER NOW