



DEER CREEK

PRIDE

Spring/Summer 2016

Mission

Deer Creek Christian School partners with families to help children grow in **Academics, Faith, and Character** for Kingdom service.



PRINCIPAL'S POST

LITTLE THINGS, IMPORTANT THINGS

by *Brian Verwolf*
Head of School

May 3 was National Teacher Appreciation Day. At Deer Creek, of course, we took it to the next level and turned it into a full week of appreciation that involved food, gifts, thank-you notes, and more. Some might say we shouldn't need a specific date to express appreciation, but I still hope we do it again next year—because the food was incredible!

During this special week I received a book from a few of our middle school students. There were pre-made prompts that students wrote answers to. For example: "If Mr. Verwolf was a fruit, what would he be and why?" One student wrote, "A blueberry, because he wears a lot of blue."

Another entry touched my heart in an unexpected way: "If Mr.

Verwolf was a fictional character who would he be and why?"

The response: "Indiana Jones, because he both teaches and lives the subject every day. He is passionate." I have always wanted to be like Indiana Jones! And it was encouraging to know that this student thinks of me that way. It was a "little thing," but it was important to me. Little things mean a lot.

It's a time of transition for Deer Creek. In the coming weeks we will relocate to a different building, celebrate a graduating class, and welcome new staff and students. Through all of these big, important things, let's not forget the little things—the words, gestures, and smiles we can use to encourage each other. After all, the tiniest faith, even that of a mustard seed, can cause great things to happen (Mark 4:30-32). ♥

DEER CREEK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool–8th grade
330 W. Highland Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
www.dccsonline.org
708-672-6200

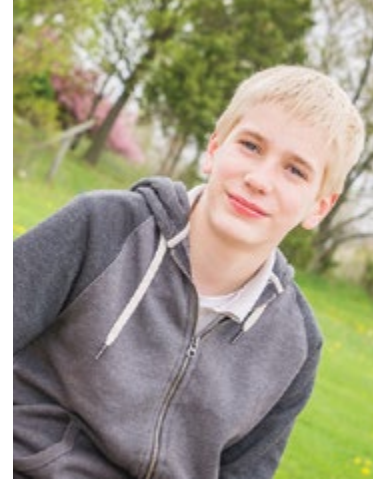
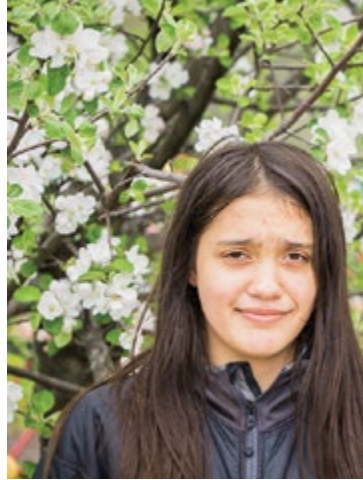
 facebook.com/
DeerCreekChristianSchool

**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL
FOR OUR NEW LOCATION!
(Now we need help
moving....)**

Can you join us the first two Saturdays in June?

WORDS FROM OUR GRADUATES

The mission of Deer Creek is to partner with families to help children grow in Academics, Faith, and Character for Kingdom service. Graduation at Deer Creek is our opportunity to celebrate this mission together—to acknowledge how God has used parents, teachers, and friends to shape the minds and hearts of our students, and to bless these students as they take their next steps on a path of lifelong learning and service in God’s Kingdom. Congratulations Deer Creek Christian School Class of 2016! ♥



David Mead

Where will you attend high school?

Illinois Lutheran High School.

What do you hope to be doing in five years?

I want to go into the Air Force.

What’s your best Deer Creek memory?

The 7th-grade trip to Silver Birch.

What do you appreciate about Deer Creek?

The Christian environment.

What would you tell a Kindergartner just starting at Deer Creek?

Listen to your teachers.

Faith Rooney

Where will you attend high school?

Southwest Chicago Christian High School.

What do you hope to be doing in five years?

Something in Math or Science.

What’s your best Deer Creek memory?

Paintball at Silver Birch, and hands-on learning with Mr. Verwolf.

What do you appreciate about Deer Creek?

The small, intimate setting and Christian education.

What would you tell a Kindergartner just starting at Deer Creek?

The teachers will take care of you and teach you well.

Shalem Smart

Where will you attend high school?

Southland College Prep.

What do you hope to be doing in five years?

Attending college to study science.

What’s your best Deer Creek memory?

The Silver Birch trip.

What do you appreciate about Deer Creek?

The very good learning environment.

What would you tell a Kindergartner just starting at Deer Creek?

You will like it. You will learn a lot. You should try new things.

T. J. Vroom

Where will you attend high school?

Illiana Christian High School or Illinois Lutheran High School.

What do you hope to be doing in five years?

I hope to be in college getting an education.

What’s your best Deer Creek memory?

The friends I made, even in a short time, I still made great friends.

What do you appreciate about Deer Creek?

The smaller class sizes.

What would you tell a Kindergartner just starting at Deer Creek?

Do your best in all you do. Try to make a friend and be kind. Also, focus on your schoolwork.



ACADEMICS, FAITH, CHARACTER NEW FACES

It's so exciting to find people who share the Deer Creek vision even before they are part of the Deer Creek family. That's how we felt when we met Linda Miller and reviewed her credentials. The awards and accomplishments listed in her resumé are impressive, but we were just as impressed with her commitment to equipping students for their roles in the broader community and in Kingdom service.

Mrs. Miller will be serving as Deer Creek's K-8 Music teacher and 5-8 Bible teacher, while also leading us as Director of Spiritual Life. She's a native Chicagoan with a variety of

experience in youth development, music instruction, multi-cultural sensitivity, civic involvement, and Kingdom growth. She believes she was born to serve God's people unselfishly with the gifts and talents God blessed her with, and to inspire others to discover their own gifts and calling.

Her favorite Scripture verse is Jeremiah 29:11 — "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We welcome Linda Miller to our staff, and we look forward to working with her when we begin the new school year this fall. ♥

Teacher of the Year, Creativity Award, Distinctive Performance Award—these are just a few of the accomplishments listed on Linda Miller's resumé. She comes to Deer Creek with experience in not only teaching, but also casting vision for what education can accomplish.



ACADEMICS NEW PLACES

Deer Creek's strategic plan, developed over the past two years, has been a catalyst for our dreams, and so has the encouragement and commitment of so many parents, staff, and supporters of our school.

This strategic plan has allowed us to dream of a larger, more diverse student body. It has fueled a vision to partner with an even greater number of families as we seek to develop Academics, Faith, and Character within children.

As we looked to the future of Deer Creek, one of our primary objectives was to secure a facility that would serve both our current families and enhance our mission.

After much prayer and discussion, we are pleased to

announce Deer Creek has entered into a multi-year agreement for the use of the school facilities at the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church campus in Chicago Heights, Illinois (two blocks south of Marian Catholic High School). We are excited to have more space!

Will you help us move into it?

We've scheduled two moving days, and we hope that the entire Deer Creek family will participate on one or both days:

- Saturday, June 4
- Saturday, June 11
- Any time, 8:00a-3:00p
- Lunch, drinks and snacks will be provided.

If you are willing to help, please contact the school office at 708-672-6200. We need you! ♥



We are grateful and excited to be using the school facilities of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Our new address will be:

330 W. Highland Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411

ACADEMICS

WE'LL MISS YOU

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Camilleri, Mrs. Popko, and Mr. Franks for serving at Deer Creek. Karin—we'll miss

your singing. Candi—we'll miss your deep compassion for K4 students. And David—we'll miss your beard (and your knowledge

of God's Word). May God bless each of you as you continue to touch the lives of many for Kingdom service. ♡



From left: Karin Camilleri, Candi Popko, and David Franks

ALUMNI, ILLUMINATED

"I VALUE MY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION"

by Erinn Behn,
Class of 2007

I graduated from Deer Creek in 2007 and went on to attend Illiana Christian High School in Lansing, Illinois. While there, I was super involved in sports and extra-curricular activities. I ran cross country and played basketball and soccer all four years.

One thing I really wanted to do after high school was play college basketball. I was blessed with the opportunity to do so at Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

I have been playing sports ever since I can remember, so that led me to major in Health and Physical Education and minor in Coaching. While at Taylor, I had

to balance a tough academic schedule and a busy basketball schedule all year.

I graduated in May of 2015 and was blessed to be hired to teach PE at Tipton Middle School and to coach JV Girls' Basketball at Tipton High School in Tipton, Indiana. My first year of teaching has been a whirlwind, but I have learned so much and am having a great time.

I value the Christian education I received, starting all the way back in Pre-K at Deer Creek. I'm grateful to have been able to attend Christian schools all the way through college. I

continue to thank God for the opportunities he has blessed me with and continues to bless me with each day. ♡

Deer Creek graduates, we'd love to hear from you! Please email us and share where you are and what you're doing: info@dccsonline.org.



ACADEMICS, FAITH, CHARACTER

OUR REMARKABLE PARTNERSHIP

by Steve Blom,
Development Director

It has been a remarkable year at Deer Creek in so many ways. Students are growing. Teachers are leading and learning. Parents are engaged. There is so much for us to celebrate!

All of this is possible in no small part because of you, the community of individuals, churches, and businesses who surround this school with your encouragement, support, and love.

We truly believe in this mission to which God has called us. We also believe we could not do this without you—nor do we want to.

So as we celebrate what He has done through Deer Creek this year, we also look to the future with the joy and assurance

that He is with us as we seek to expand this mission to which he has called us...together.

One of our dreams for the future is to ensure that any family who wants to partner with Deer Creek for their child's education is able to do so. Will you come alongside us to make this dream a reality?

A \$50 monthly gift from 10 of our partners would offset the cost of one child's annual tuition at Deer Creek. Will you be one of our monthly Tuition Assistance partners? If so, you can use the enclosed envelope.

If you have any questions about monthly giving or financially supporting Deer Creek's mission in other ways, please contact Steve Blom at 708-672-6200 or sblom@dccsonline.org. Thank you for being an essential partner in Deer Creek's mission! 🍀



ACADEMICS, FAITH, CHARACTER

LEARNING ALL SUMMER

Play is an essential part of learning, and we certainly hope everyone does a lot of that this summer. If you're looking for some ideas about how to incorporate play and learning into your family's summer schedule, check out these great websites:

- Crete Park District: www.cretepark.com
- Plum Creek Nature Center:
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/visitor-centers/pcnc>
- Chicago Museum Free Days:
<http://www.chicagoparent.com/picks/museum-free-days>
- Coding for Kids (an online coding class for K-8 students):
www.code.org
- National Summer Learning Association: www.summerlearning.org
- Edutopia: <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/summer-learning-resources-matt-davis>





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330 W. Highland Drive • Chicago Heights, IL 60411

US POSTAGE
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DEER CREEK
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL



 Find us at facebook.com/DeerCreekChristianSchool

IMPORTANT DATES

*Deer Creek family—
Mark your calendars!*

Saturday, June 4: Moving Day 1 8:00a-3:00p

Saturday, June 11: Moving Day 2 8:00a-3:00p

Monday, August 22: Back-2-School Night

Tuesday, August 23: First Day of School

