

FALL 2014 ANCHORAGE

The Magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School



Year in *Review* 2013 • 2014



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

IN THIS ISSUE

AACS to open second Lower School campus, Upper School Prefects tackle Peacemakers curriculum, Alumni Open Gym Nights return



A MESSAGE FROM MR. K

By Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*

About seven years ago I met a 4th grade student named Brielle Joy Murray, who was diagnosed with brain cancer. I do not believe I have ever met a more courageous person. Over the course of four years she had multiple surgeries, lengthy periods of chemotherapy and radiation, and missed a considerable amount of school. What was so amazing about Brielle was not just her courage, but the positive and hopeful attitude she always displayed, regardless of her prognosis or the pain she experienced. She was joyful!

Joy...is not so much happiness as contentment. Joy is the ability to take good cheer from the gospel.

Her spirituality defied her age and her daily journal was turned into a Bible study for middle and high school girls. Her faith and testimony ministered to everyone around her and extended beyond her school and church community. She unashamedly proclaimed to doctors, nurses and everyone she met that Jesus Christ was her Savior and the source of her strength.

When she went to heaven in February of her 8th grade year, the news of her memorial service sped through social media and over 3,000 people attended. Brielle was an example of living out the qualities of the fruit of the Spirit. I love how God used a child, a middle schooler, whose middle name happened to be Joy, to provide our community a living example of a fruit of the Spirit... JOY.

Today, our culture does not talk about joy. We talk about being happy, but rarely hear the word joy to describe the state of our mind or heart. The Bible uses the word happy or happiness less than five times, but uses joy, joyful, joyous more than 300 times. Psalm 16:11 describes it this way, "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

Here is the deal. JOY does not mean feeling good all the time. It is not even a character trait of someone who is naturally optimistic or upbeat. Dr. Phil Ryken, President at Wheaton College and former pastor at 10th Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, says that, "Joy...is not so much happiness as contentment. Joy is the ability to take good cheer from the gospel. It is not, therefore, a spontaneous response to some temporary pleasure. It does not depend on circumstance at all. It is based rather on rejoicing in one's eternal identity in Jesus Christ."

BECAUSE OF JESUS we have and can choose JOY. We are the living curriculum that our children are learning from every day. Being JOYFUL is the result of our reliance on the Holy Spirit. Choosing JOY every day is simply a matter of our desire to pursue Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

I saw scores of lives changed because of how God used a child, a middle schooler, named Brielle JOY Murray. You and I have the opportunity to be used by God as well. I hope you will join me in pursuing joy. ✚

*In His Service and Yours,
Rick Kempton, Superintendent*



ANCHORAGE is the magazine of the Annapolis Area Christian School. The magazine is distributed to school parents, alumni, parents of alumni, and friends of Annapolis Area Christian School. A downloadable version is also available on the website at aacsonline.org.

MISSION STATEMENT

We engage students in an education of excellence enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

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- Rick Kempton, *Superintendent*
- Bob McCollum, *Principal, Upper School*
- Rick Slenk, *Principal, Middle School*
- Nancy Pavlischek, *Principal, Lower School*
- Glen Cole, *Chief Financial Officer*
- Graham Thorpe, *Chief Advancement Officer*
- Jennifer Good, *Chief Communications Officer*



ALUMNI should direct news information to alumni@aacsonline.org or contact the Alumni Relations office at 410.519.5300.

AACS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To email a member of the board, please use the format first initial and last name@aacsonline.org unless otherwise noted below.

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ABOUT THE COVER

Kevin Dennstaedt '00, Ashley (Valentine) Brandt '05, and Steve Deterding '00 pose together after being inducted into the AACs Athletic Hall of Fame on October 9, 2014.

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by Nancy Pavlischek, *Lower School Principal*

LOWER SCHOOL WORLDVIEW

What exactly is a worldview? Lower School students know a worldview is all about how you see the world, who God is, and your place in it. A worldview is like putting on a pair of glasses. It changes the way you see things. During chapel this fall, the DeRoo's – Allison and Donna – kindergarten and third grade teachers respectively, painted a picture of this story for Lower School students.

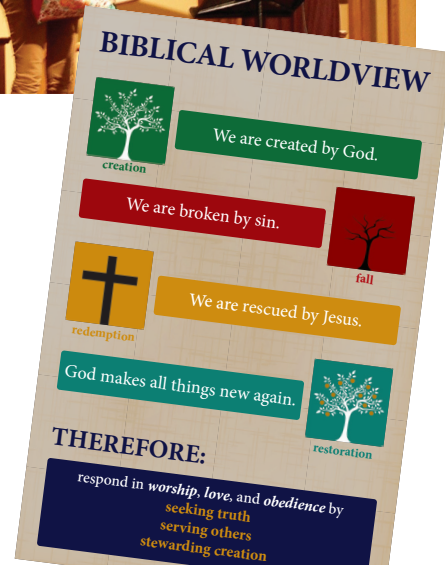
To kick off the chapel series, teachers acted out a variety of worldviews for the students, ones that many parents in the audience recognized as very real in our culture today. Their focus was those whose lives are defined by the pursuit of money, fame, knowledge, popularity, or beauty; all lenses that affect the way one views life. Each one fell short when it came to real, lasting peace.

So what, then, is the answer? What is a biblical worldview? A biblical

worldview is seeing all of life the way God sees it, through his story. Our biblical worldview framework tells God's story in four chapters: Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Restoration. For eight weeks, students were exposed to great teaching as well as follow-up activities designed to provide a foundation of understanding for future learning.

Understanding this story opens our eyes to see how God's creation was perfect, but our brokenness has affected all of life. It also means understanding how, through Christ, we are rescued, and God is restoring his world once again.

Children have responded to the lessons with creation poems, skits about brokenness in the world, and listening to their teachers share their own stories about being rescued by Jesus. This is not just an academic exercise, for when we believe this story, we live differently. †



by Susan Leonard, *Middle School Faculty*

VOLUNTEERS IN PARTNERSHIP: ALL FOR HIM



At the Middle School, over 25% of the student body now participates in Cross Country. The sport is unique among other Middle School sports because your opponent is not a fellow student or a runner from another team, but yourself. After a 2-mile sprint dodging difficult terrain, you cross the finish line and learn quickly what you are made of – sometimes metal and sometimes clay.

We believe the growth on our team is due largely to something that no one specific person does, but what we all do and do together. Middle School Cross Country runners wear shirts with “All for Him” across the back. We compete against 12 schools and over 200 runners. For spectators, meets are like tent revivals, where most, if not all, parents meet under the tent, praising athletes as

they finish the race. Our runners know “All for Him” is a testimony and not an empty epithet. And our most vivid testimony on a trail is what we do when someone falls or gets injured, and lays on the ground alone, often with no adults in sight. Though the runner down is not left “half dead,” our Middle Schoolers believe that there are times being made of clay, and held in the Potter's hands, is more important than showing your metal, because showing mercy is more important than coming in first, and eternity more important than the finish line.

And you know what? Adults want to be a part of it too. Rarely, do coaches need to request parent support. It simply happens. Why? Because our children remind us what “All for Him” looks like and we can't wait to show up, if only for a glimpse.

continued on page 4

In the 8th grade, the faculty is working hard to emulate this, to keep the student's and our eyes focused on Christ. It's not easy, and it looks different. Often we witness conflict, emotional injuries and spiritual falls. But, in our brokenness, Christ is ever-present. And more than half of our parents are involved in school life; from

the Servant Leadership Retreat, to math warm-ups, to class discussions in science, Bible, history, and english. Our parents open up newspapers, stimulate minds, and solve math and word problems. They show up, not because of what we do, but what we all do for Him. To God be all the Glory, and all that we do at AACs be "All for Him!" †



"AACs Middle School teachers are the best at giving parents the opportunity to be involved in our children's education! From helping with a warm-up in math (no genius required!) to leading discussion groups for novels, there is a place for each of us to be involved and influence these students in a positive way for Christ." - Sherry Bell, 8th Grade Parent

by Anne Hartman and Jake Palumbo, *Upper School Faculty*

UPPER SCHOOL PREFECTS BEGIN PEACEMAKERS CURRICULUM

The AACs Prefect Board exists to identify needs within the Upper School community, and work collaboratively with faculty and student leaders to address those needs.

The Upper School Prefects are seniors who are elected by their peers and approved by the faculty. As student leaders, they are in a position both to see aspects of school culture that faculty and staff may not see, and to change that culture from within. Each of them serves in a particular area of school culture (Academics, Admissions, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, Student Life, Technology, Service), but as a Prefect Board, they work together to shape the culture as a whole.

At the beginning of the school year, we challenged the prefects to draft a vision statement stating how they will work together to cultivate a healthy school culture. After much discussion, they arrived at this vision:

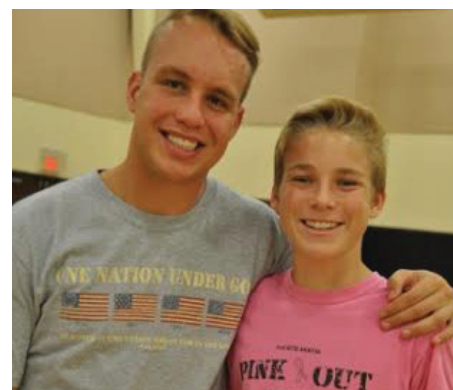
The prefects cultivate a Christ-centered school culture where the community respects, serves, supports, and listens to one another.

As we meet with them weekly, we are challenging them to let this direct their work.

To further equip them to shape school culture, we have started leading them through the student version of the Peacemakers curriculum, created by Ken Sande & Kevin Johnson. We are all aware that interpersonal conflict between students is one of the factors that most colors students' experiences here at AACs. Thus, it is crucial for our students to be equipped with the tools for handling conflicts healthily.

Already, our discussion of the book's initial chapters has been

challenging, as we've talked about the differences between "peace-faking," "peace-breaking," and "peace-making." We are grateful for the opportunity to be thinking with them about what it looks like to maintain healthy relationships—not by avoiding or seeking conflict, but by moving through it with courage and grace. †



HOMECOMING 2014



The Anchor Fund for AACCS

*Christ as our hope and eternal anchor
directs our attention to the cross
and the security we have in Him
no matter the financial, cultural,
or life situation.*

We believe the Lord will lead generous people to support the work He is doing at AACCS.

The image of an anchor firmly positioned on the ocean floor points to a steady vessel on the seas above; but one that is still rolling and moving with the tossing of the wind and waves. Christ as our hope and eternal anchor directs our attention to the cross and the security we have in Him no matter the financial, cultural, or life situation.

We rely solely on God's provisions through His leading of His people. And we can confidently trust in His steadfast plan as He is our firm and eternal foundation.

Gifts to The Anchor Fund provide the flexible, immediate support that helps to captivate and sustain a talented and distinct student body; attract, retain, and train the best faculty and staff; and maintain the campuses with which this school community has been blessed.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to the Anchor Fund as each gift has a direct bearing on the work of the Lord through the lives of the students, families, and teachers at AACCS. ✝

*Thank you to all the generous people
and organizations who donated
to Annapolis Area Christian School
during the 2013-2014 campaign.
To view the 2013-2014 Honor Roll
of Donors please visit aacsonline.org.*

COMING TO SEVERN 2ND LOWER SCHOOL CAMPUS TO OPEN!

The 2014-15 school year marks our "10-20-30 Celebration." It is by God's grace and guidance that we celebrate the 10th anniversary of opening our high school campus, the 20th anniversary of opening our middle school campus, and our 30th senior class. We're now excited for another major milestone; a second lower school campus in Severn!

The new lower school campus will be located at Grace Pointe Community Church on Gambrills Road in Severn. Grace Pointe has a large and beautiful new facility with plenty of room for offices, classrooms, meeting space, playground, and playing fields. Karl Graustein will serve as the principal. He is already on staff at AACCS and leading the charge to develop this additional campus. Karl has 21 years of Christian school experience. He has a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Regent University, and a Bachelor's in Mathematics from Wheaton College.

We're reaching out to our extended community to find those who want to become part of the Annapolis Area Christian School mission and legacy.



Playground \$75,000
Technology \$35,000
Soccer field \$30,000
Classroom(s) \$15,000
(Seven Total = \$105,000)
Scholarships \$5,000

TOTAL \$250,000

CONTRIBUTIONS WILL HELP
COVER START-UP COSTS
INCLUDING:

Your tax deductible gift will enable us to reach more children with an outstanding and distinctively Christian education. You can sponsor one of our major needs, or make a monthly contribution to the total project. One time gifts or monthly or quarterly pledges over the 2014-15 school year are appreciated and encouraged. Contact Graham Thorpe, Chief Advancement Officer, at gthorpe@aacsonline.org.



ALUMNI NEWS

ARE YOU PROUD THAT YOU WENT TO AACCS?

Not all of us had a completely positive experience during our time at Annapolis Area Christian School. When I was a student, certain things happened that were handled in a way I still disagree with, especially that time I got a detention for chewing gum in Chapel. However, when I look back to my experience as a whole, the few things that I did not like are far outweighed by the number of positive interactions and personal growth I benefited from while attending the school. The deep friendships I made, the extra-curricular activities provided, the teachers that really cared about my education; all of these things shaped my life, helped me grow, and provided me the opportunity to be successful. Now, as the new Alumni Association President, I am learning even more about all AACCS is doing to achieve its mission of engaging students in an education of excellence, enabling them to impact the world through a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

A network of graduates who share a common experience and develop a form of community where its members utilize one another because they relate through the bond that AACCS formed between them.

Regardless of what your experience was at AACCS, you shared it with your classmates. As alumni, we can all relate to each other on that level. I would even argue we can trust each other in a way most other alumni networks cannot. That in a sense is the definition of community.

This is ultimately the reason I want to lead the Alumni Association. We have the opportunity to grow a network of graduates who share a common experience and develop a form of community where its members utilize one another because they relate through the bond that AACCS formed between them.

I believe that growing network will in turn support the mission of AACCS through a variety of ways because we see the benefit of the AACCS community in our own lives and we desire to see it grow. I am thankful I was able to attend and graduate from AACCS and I am proud to be alum! 🏡



Sincerely,

Caleb J. Wolf

Class of 1999, Alumni Association President

If you have any thoughts or ideas on how you would like the AACCS Alumni Association to grow, please email me at caleb.wolf@gmail.com.



Congratulations to the 2014 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!

Founded in 2010, the Annapolis Area Christian School Athletic Hall of Fame was established to pay tribute to those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the quality and tradition of AACCS athletics. The example the Hall of Fame members demonstrate is an encouragement and a challenge to those both outside and within the school. While not exclusive, the following attributes are principal factors in selecting someone into the Hall of fame: Christian character, recognized athletic excellence, leadership and commitment.

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

Alumni Christmas Reception

7:00-10:00pm

Federal House in Annapolis

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27

Class of 2009 Reunion

7:00-9:00pm

Union Jacks in Annapolis

\$5/person, includes appetizers

& extended specials

Contact Alex George,

margaret.alexis.george@gmail.com

for information.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Young Alumni Chapel & Luncheon

Chapel: 9:55-10:50am

Lunch: 11:00am, Kilby Athletic Center

2ND SUNDAY EVERY MONTH

Alumni Open Gym Night

5:00-8:00pm

AACCS Upper School,

Kilby Athletic Center

To RSVP for the above alumni events
email alumni@aacsonline.org.

Be in the loop about upcoming
events & giveaways!



**LIKE THE AACCS
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
ON FACEBOOK!**



WILEY (VALENTINE) BRANDT
Class of 2005 • Soccer and Lacrosse

STEVE DETERDING
Class of 2000 • Lacrosse

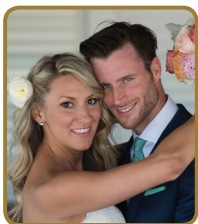
KEVIN DENNSTAEDT
Class of 2000 • Lacrosse



ALUMNI @HOMECOMING



ENGAGEMENTS & MARRIAGES



Lia (Paladino) Murphy '01

married Ed Murphy on June 22, 2014 in a gorgeous beach-front ceremony in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The couple now resides in Annapolis, Maryland.



Adam Myer '03

married Amanda Clifford on May 10, 2014 in Leesburg, Virginia. Adam received his PhD in Organizational

Psychology from Pennsylvania State University in August 2013 and currently works at Johnson & Johnson as a Workplace Analytics Manager. Amanda is a Virginia Tech graduate and works for Caliper Corporation. The couple lives in Hillsborough, New Jersey.



Jackie Ross '06 got engaged to Samuel Kim earlier this year and will be getting married on January 23, 2015. Jackie is currently attend-

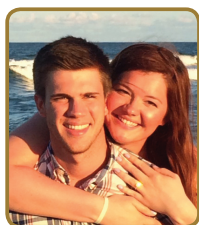
ing graduate school at University of Maryland College Park pursuing a degree in Bioengineering and Samuel is a Fire Protection Engineer Consultant at Aon. The couple met at their church where Samuel also serves as Praise Leader.



Adam Sheir '08

married Mary High on August 23, 2014 at The Lords House of Prayer in Lancaster City, Pennsylvania. The

reception followed at The Lancaster County Convention Center, The Penn Square Marriott. Mary graduated from Messiah College and is employed by High Associates, Ltd. Adam also graduated from Messiah College and now works for the federal government.



Samantha Boerste '09

is engaged to Chad Mitchell, whom she met at Belmont University while they were both students

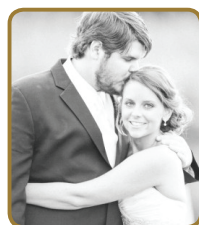
there. Sammie currently works as a Music Teacher in the Anne Arundel County school system and Chad recently took a job as a Financial Analyst in Raleigh, North Carolina. The couple is planning a June 2015 wedding.



Alivia (Turnquist) Stenzel '09

married Rob Stenzel on May 24, 2014 in Easton, Maryland. Alivia graduated in May 2013 from

the University of Maryland School of Nursing and is a Nurse at the University of Maryland Medical Center; Rob is a Genetic Researcher working in Rockville. They are currently living in Baltimore.



Emily (Wood) Williams '10

married Jason Williams on October 4, 2014 in Deale, Maryland. Emily graduated

from Liberty University in August 2014 with a B.A. in Early Childhood Education and is currently working at the AACS lower school campus. Jason is co-owner of Fullscope AV and also serves at Chesapeake Christian Fellowship as Technical Director.

BIRTHS



Elizabeth (Pfeffer) Pfenson '06

and her husband, Thomas, were blessed with their first child, a son, Silas Francis, on May 30, 2014. Silas

weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20.5 inches long at birth.

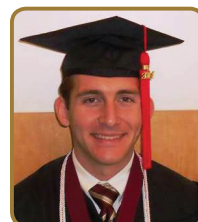


Ethan Panton '04 and Jessica (Warren) Panton '07

welcomed their first child, Elizabeth James, into the world on July 21, 2014.

Elizabeth weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and was 20.75 inches long. Ethan works in property management in Baltimore and Jessica is a Dental Hygienist in Crofton. They live in Crofton and just celebrated their five-year anniversary.

OTHER NEWS



Vaughn Ridings '10

graduated with University Honors from Carnegie Mellon University in May. At that time he was also inducted

into Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society. He is employed at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland. Recently, Vaughn also became the head coach of the AACS Varsity Soccer team.



Emma Perdue '14

swam 4.4 miles in the Great Chesapeake Bay Swim on June 8 in 2 hours, 7 minutes. The Great Chesapeake

Bay Swim (GCBS) raises funds for local Maryland charities, including the March of Dimes. Emma was able to raise more than \$400 with the help of several corporate sponsors! Her senior practicum at AACS focused on swimming and drowning prevention and she was a member of AACS' inaugural swim team. Emma is currently attending and swimming at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. ✝

There are many things that influence the ebb and flow of a year. Birthdays, weddings, school finals, holidays, vacations, and many more factors help frame the time we have over a period of 12 months. We catalog past experience as memories that bring joy, tears, laughter, and, Lord willing, hope for the future.

But what would you think if I said that our giving should be a definitive and memorable part of our year?

What if we could look back and see the effect of what we did with what we had been given? This snapshot of the year for AACCS is a little bit like that.

God has blessed AACCS with three (soon to be four) campuses. Along with that, this past year 172 new students came to this school. He inspired donors to give over \$375,000 to AACCS.

So what has been done with all of this? Well, over \$1,000,000 was given in tuition aid to students from K-12. Our campuses, along with their primary utilization for academic purposes, hosted plays, athletic games, family nights, concerts, open gyms, dinners, camps, church services, and so much more. 88 seniors were prepared to step into the next stage of their lives in the workforce, in ministry, or at college (or even all three at once!). The Lord was praised in chapel, in Bible studies, in the classroom and on the sports fields. We seek to use what has been given to AACCS in a manner that brings glory to God and aids in the flourishing of His people.

Looking back at the year allows us a moment to be thankful, to relive wonderful memories, and also find new hope for what God may yet bring tomorrow. Thank you for being partners with us in the ministry of Annapolis Area Christian School. ✠

— Graham Thorpe, '97

2013•2014 Reviews

98%
college acceptance
rate!

172
new students

SCHOOL PROFILE 2013/2014

LOWER SCHOOL 270

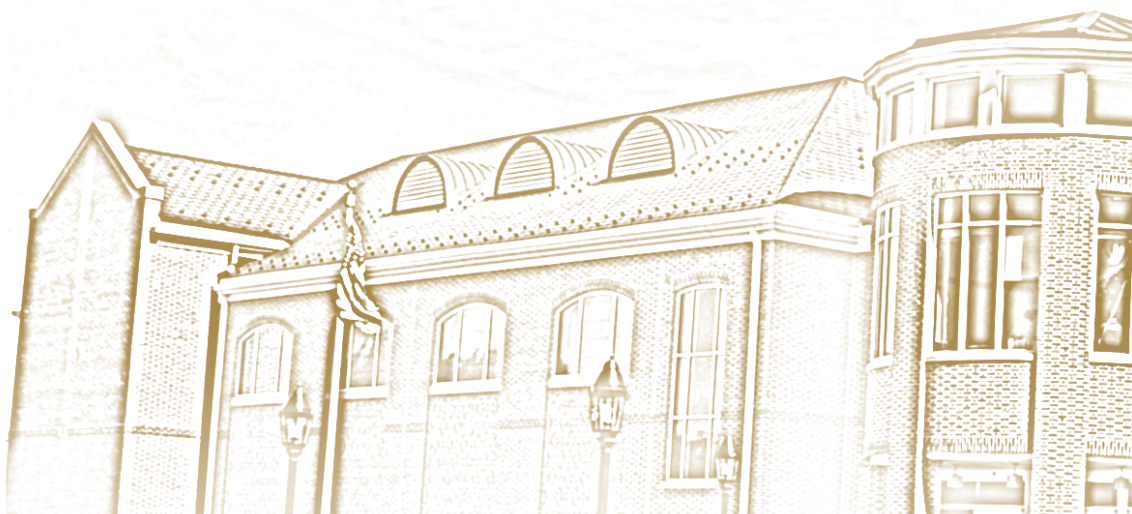
MIDDLE SCHOOL 197

UPPER SCHOOL 370

ALUMNI 1,916

TEACHERS 63

STAFF 44



napshot

\$472,000
reduction
in debt

		REVENUES	EXPENSES		
Tuition	\$9,216,811			Personnel	\$7,142,664
Programs	\$521,709			Plant	\$2,233,677
Contributions	\$375,801			Program	\$910,643
Application & Enrollment Fees	\$241,755			Furniture & Equipment	\$76,562
Rentals	\$270,784			Depreciation	\$1,070,447
Transportation	\$249,490			Administrative	\$415,456
Investment Income	\$127,855			Educational	\$154,729
Athletic & Other Fees	\$114,562			Admissions	\$142,647
Other Sources	\$228,732			Development	\$39,675
				Technology	\$85,678
\$11,347,499				\$12,272,178	

\$1,000,000

Tuition Aid awarded
to students

91%

of budget covered
by tuition

remaining

9%

covered by gifts
and fees



ANNAPOLIS AREA
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

LOWER SCHOOL
710 Ridgely Avenue
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★ ★ ★

OUR ONLY SCHOOL—WIDE FUNDRAISER!



SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2014
BEGINS AT 6 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

AT

TICKETS: \$30 INDIVIDUAL
\$55 COUPLE

TABLE SPONSORSHIP: \$500
(preferred seating for 8)

KILBY ATHLETIC CENTER
AACS UPPER SCHOOL

SILENT & LIVE AUCTIONS
FREE TUITION DRAWING
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
FOOD & DRINKS

Proceeds benefit the AACS Anchor Fund, for more information see page 6.
Auction materials are available at www.aacsonline.org.
Sponsor the event, advertise your business, or enter the Free Tuition Drawing today!

