



Dear Upper School Families,

I hope you and your family have been able to enjoy the snow. The change in the landscape certainly sets the stage for the upcoming holidays. Looking out for others and the spirit of giving are an integral part of this season.

In Upper School we've worked to foster volunteerism throughout the year by offering students a variety of ways to get involved as well as opportunities to collaborate in developing projects that help people locally, nationally, and globally. The two recent *Parents' Night Out* fundraisers were aimed to support global initiatives involving LCDS students. On the local level, students are engaged in projects ranging from volunteering at Reynolds Middle School to tutoring LCDS Lower School students to volunteering at the Lancaster Power Packs Project. Please see the recent article about *Stewardship In Practice* (see photo) <http://news.engleonline.com/AdDesk/Htmlfiles/Readers/article.epc?id=94911>. [Parents: If you work with a business or organization that would like to offer volunteer opportunities to LCDS students, please contact our Service Learning Coordinator, Mike Simpson at simpsonm@lancastercountryday.org.]

Last week LCDS students, from youngest to oldest, were asked to participate in the President's 'Hour of Code' initiative aimed to inspire future computer programmers. While not all students will actually choose programming as a profession, the coding activities our students participated in promoted ways of thinking and acting that we do want to promote. Coding requires logical, sequential thinking in the development of a multi-step process utilizing a student's creativity, visual and auditory skills, and mathematical ability. Developing this type of thinking will serve our students well in many endeavors. For some students, the work was wonderful experience for the type of collaborative interactions and relationships that we continually seek to foster and develop. Here is the article in the Sunday News about the "Hour of Code" at LCDS and other schools. http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/931566_President-s--Hour-of-Code--initiative-may-inspire-future-computer-programmers-here.html

In formal and informal ways throughout the year, LCDS faculty and administration work to educate students regarding appropriate behavior and conduct. While our students are teenagers wired to push limits, we have an awesome group of kids that do an excellent job of knowing limits, acting with personal integrity as well as mutual respect. However, the allure of social media has created pressure points and anonymity that can lead to regretful decision making online. To further develop digital awareness amongst our students, a series of educational opportunities (readings, small group discussions, and assemblies) have been developed for LCDS

Upper School students. Most recently, a Texting and Driving program was prepared for Upper School students. Due to the snow day last week, this is being rescheduled. In January we will have Richard Guerry coming to speak to Upper School students and, that same evening, to interested parents and Middle School students. Mr. Guerry is the founder of the Institute for Responsible Online and Cell Phone Communication, a nonprofit dedicated to a global digital community free of negative and sometimes irreversible consequences resulting from poor digital judgment. Author of "Public and Permanent: The Golden Rule of the 21st Century," Guerry has been interviewed for national media outlets and a featured speaker at the National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention, the Internationally Bullying Prevention Association, and the National Symposium on Child Abuse. At this special presentation for LCDS parents, learn from Guerry how individuals are unknowingly manipulated and schemed through digital technology, how the consequences can be permanent, and the importance of digital safety, responsibility and awareness.

There have also been a couple of articles on digital awareness in the Lancaster newspaper during the past few weeks that you may find informative. Please see the links below.

- Do you know what your teen is doing on Twitter? Twitter pages detailing "crushes" from Lancaster County high school students, including those in Penn Manor, Lampeter-Strasburg, Garden Spot, Columbia, Donegal and others, are anything but sweet. Interviews with school officials about what they think they can/cannot do about them are in this and the next article.
<http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/927520-Do-you-know-what-your-teen-is-doing-on-Twitter--High-school-crush-accounts-deal-in-sexual-fantasies-.html>
- RELATED: Experts say parents need to be online, too.
<http://lancasteronline.com/article/local/927548-Experts-say-parents-need-to-be-online--too.html>

Upcoming Dates of Note

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| December 20 (Fri.) | 3:00 p.m. Start of Winter Break |
| January 6, 2014 (Mon.) | Classes resume |
| January 7 (Tues.) | 2:00-3:00 p.m. Yale Spizzwinks at US Assembly (America's first and oldest underclassmen a cappella group) in Steinman Theatre. |
| January 15 (Wed.) | 7:45 a.m. Bagel Breakfast for Upper School courtesy of Class Parents
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm Paying for College
An overview of the questions you should be asking about college tuition and the financial aid process. (Steinman Theatre) |
| January 17 (Fri.) | 8:00-9:30 am - Transition Breakfast for 8th Grade Parents
This is an opportunity for grade 8 parents to hear presentations and have a Q&A with Upper School faculty, administration, and the College Guidance office members. (Room 111) |

January 20 (Mon.)	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No School
January 21 (Tues.)	7:00 pm - <i>Digital Consciousness: Internet and Cell Phone Responsibility & Safety</i> presentation by Richard Guerry (Steinman Theatre) (US Students will also have an assembly with Mr. Guerry at 1:45 pm).
January 24 (Fri.)	Second Trimester Midterm

Enjoy the holidays!

Sincerely,



C. Eric Bondy
Head of Upper School
ext. 234

Lancaster Country Day School Mission Statement

The mission of Lancaster Country Day School is to encourage each student’s growth within a challenging and supportive academic environment that inspires enthusiasm for learning, the joy of accomplishment, and commitment to community. LCDS fosters the individual’s thinking skills, physical and emotional well-being, and creative expression with an emphasis on personal integrity, mutual respect, and social responsibility.