



# Dearborn Christian School HAPPENINGS

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition

February 2008

### DCS Memories

By Gail (Soper) Elenbaas - Class of 1969



Gail: The Early Years

Dearborn Christian School – what a flood of memories and emotions are evoked by that special name! Being an old-timer means, of course, that my memories of DCS are of the school ‘down the hill’, the church/school building on the corner of Village Road and Audette where we happily spent so many of our waking hours. There we were blessed with a solid Christian education from teachers who juggled two or more grades per classroom and who often wore the ‘hat’ of music, art and PE instructor as well. It was at DCS that we had chapel in the sanctuary every Thursday morning, all-you-can-eat hot lunch in the basement once a month with those smiling moms and Dixie cups of jello, and the periodic excitement of a reel-to-reel movie from the public library endorsed, as always, by Orville L. Hubbard, Mayor. It was there during recess that we played softball, straining to hit the ball on the roof, where in winter we played

on mountains of plowed snow and where in all seasons we ripped our pants and scraped our knees on the gravelly surface of the playground. It was at DCS that the regularity of the school year was measured in large part by the roller skating parties, school plays, field days, camp-outs, newspaper drives, Christmas tree sales, magazine sales (Mr. Sanka), and cases of World’s Finest Chocolate. Eighth grade privileges made our final year at DCS extra special with events such as the school play, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class dinner, attendance at a Tiger game, a trip to Cedar Point, and graduation itself. Has “Pomp and Circumstance” ever been more anticipated or sounded more sweet than to an 8<sup>th</sup> grader graduating from DCS?

Although my DCS class of 1969 graduated almost 40 years ago, it is a joy to see that Dearborn Christian School is still a vital, vibrant part of the lives of many children and their families today. It remains a place where the curricular and the extra-curricular are presented from a Christian perspective and where God is honored above all else. I am so grateful for DCS in my life and that it has touched many, many other lives as well over the past 50 years. Please plan to join us on **May 31, 2008** for a very special afternoon and evening of remembering and celebrating what God has done through Dearborn Christian School.



Gail now lives in Canton, MI with her husband Doug, also a DCS grad. She and Doug have four children and one grandchild on the way.

Gail

### Reunion Date

May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008

(See schedule on Page 4)

### Previous Edition

If you did not receive the first edition 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Happenings, it is on-line at DearbornChristian.org.

### Thank You!!!!

To all who contributed to our reunion campaign! To date, we have received over \$11,000. Please help us reach our goal of \$50,000 with a contribution, small or large, using the enclosed envelope.

### Lost and Found

A list of all former students and teachers can be found at dearbornchristian.org.

### School Play

This year’s play is Snow White. See Page 3.

## Science Camp - Past and Present

*By Bob DeRoo, Current Principal*

Thinking of all of you reading this who have graduated from DCS makes me aware that a little history of science camp the last 25 years is needed.

Proud Lake Outdoor Science Center, the site of science camp for many years, has been closed to activities like our science camp due to state budget constraints. What a great place Proud Lake was for science camp.

We moved to several other sites for science camp over the years including Mill Lake, Cedar Lake, and Wildwood Ranch.

Five years ago we found Howell Nature Center (HNC) as a good site for our science camp. It has good lodging and instructional facilities. They provide meals for the students as part of the fee. HNC is a licensed facility to rehabilitate wild animals to return them to the wild. Many animals cannot be released back into the wild because of injuries or imprinting on humans so HNC maintains habitats for many animals. We enjoy seeing and learning about the animals (especially the coyotes which we enticed to howl with us) as part of a guided tour by HNC staff.

We also are holding science camp during different seasons as much as possible. Our goal is to study God's revelation in nature during fall, winter, early spring, and late spring.

This year we had our second winter camp, January 16-18. Our courses included: animal/habitat tour, endangered species, animal tracks, predator/prey, nature in winter, fire & shelter making, skins and skulls, and animal adaptations. Our activities included snow shoeing, adventure scrabble, cross-country skiing, and of course flashlight tag. It was cold and there were about 3 inches of snow.

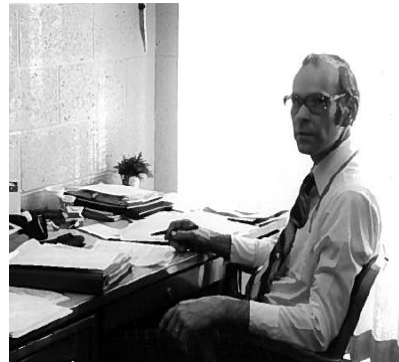
### Memories of a Former

*This year's students enjoyed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing as part of their Science Camp.*



## Principal

*Bill Weidenaar was principal from 1973 to 1984. He and his wife Jan now live in Wyoming, MI. Three of his children (Jane, Jim, and Joy) graduated from DCS.*



*Hard at work in his office*

"I remember the changes when moving from a four room schoolhouse, which was part of the Dearborn Church on Village Road. It included a split second and third grade classroom meeting in the downstairs basement room.

The staff in 1973-74 included Emma Knapper, Ruth Rorem, Carolyn Baumgartner, Ken Kruisinga, and myself.

The year before the move was made, a group of students from Nardin Park Church (in Detroit), introduced by Rev. Botts, had swelled the enrollment beyond our modest expectations and immediately created a space concern.

The excitement and challenge of a new church/school facility on Donaldson Street kept us busy for many years. We made good use of the church parking lot, the Ford property converted to a city park, and the basement dungeon room used as a gymnasium for some physical activities to help children with ADD to vent some energy on rainy or cold days.

A dip in enrollment prompted inclusion of a kindergarten class with Joyce Heetderks joining the staff in 1977. Pre-school came much later.

We cherish the memories of many exciting events, not the least of which were times spent at the outdoor science camps at Proud Lake.

### School Plays

The school play is a

significant part of DCS. The very first school play was “A Christmas Carol” in 1964, directed by Phyllis Van Andel. The first plays were performed in the basement of the original school. Since it was hard for the audience to see, Phyllis’ father helped build a stage for future plays made of plywood and pipes for legs. Since about 1970, auditoriums at Edison, O.L. Smith and Bryant middle schools have been used.

How many of the plays do you remember?

**This year’s school play is “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs of the Black Forest.” It is the most popular play at DCS, performed three times in the past. The play will be held March 7, 2008 at O.L. Smith. All alumni and friends are welcome!**

## *Snow White - 2002*



*Stephanie Auwers stars as Snow White, Andrew Webb as King Absent-minded and Rachel Posigian as Queen Bella.*



*Sean VandenBrink, Chris Giralamo, and David Pugh hang together as Hickory, Dickory and Dock, while Jonathan Mallard plays the emotional role of Weepy. The question is, where has the Time gone?*

- 1964 A Christmas Carol
- 1965 He is Risen (an Easter Play)
- 1966 HMS Pinafore and The Pied Piper
- 1967 Cheaper by the Dozen
- 1968 The Mouse that Roared
- 1969 Eyes Upon the Cross
- 1970 The Great Cross Country Race (?)
- 1971 The Tortoise and the Hare
- 1972 The Wizard of Oz
- 1973 The Other Wiseman
- 1974 The Strange Case of Mother Goose
- 1975 Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs
- 1976 Trudi and the Minstrel
- 1977 Cinderella of Loreland
- 1978 The Clown Prince of Wunderlust
- 1979 The Patchwork Girl of Oz
- 1980 The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe
- 1981 Cheaper by the Dozen
- 1982 The Thread that Runs so True
- 1983 The Liberated Cinderella and  
The Emperor’s New Clothes
- 1984 The Ransom of Red Chief
- 1985 Treasure Island
- 1986 Tom Sawyer
- 1987 The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
- 1988 The Hobbit
- 1989 Cheaper by the Dozen
- 1990 The Ransom of Red Chief
- 1991 The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe
- 1992 Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs
- 1993 The Princess and the Pauper
- 1994 Robin Hood
- 1995 Treasure Island
- 1996 The Golden Goose
- 1997 The Early Life of Louis Braille
- 1998 Friday Night Live in Odyssey
- 1999 Man in Bearskin
- 2000 The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
- 2001 Sherlock Holmes
- 2002 Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs
- 2003 Tom Sawyer
- 2004 The Hobbit
- 2005 Heaven Help the Po’taters
- 2006 The Lion, the Witch and Wardrobe
- 2007 The Arabian Nights
- 2008 Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs

## *History of DCS School Plays*

## Kindergarten Memories

Joyce Heetderks was our school's first kindergarten teacher from 1977 to 1998. Joyce and her husband John live in South Lyon, MI. Both of her children, Dave and Heidi, graduated from DCS. She remembers the following story from one of her classes.



Joyce - 1998

"I always enjoyed telling my kindergarten class Bible stories. One reason it was so fun for me was because so many of the stories were still new to them, and I always learned something in preparing the lesson. One morning after having several lessons on Moses and the Israelites, I told the children the story from Exodus 20 about Moses going up Mt. Sinai to receive the 10

Commandments. I asked, "Can any of you name one of the commandments?"

"I think I can," volunteered one little girl. "Thou shalt not admit adultery!"

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## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Thank God for his faithfulness to DCS over the past 50 years.
  - Pray that God would lead more families and students to DCS.
  - Pray for God's guidance in the planning of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
  - Pray for the current teachers and students, that they would see God's hand in every subject.
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## **From the Committee!**

Please let all of your DCS classmates know about this celebration and to contact DCS so we can get them on the mailing list.

Contact us at:

[DearbornChristian@juno.com](mailto:DearbornChristian@juno.com)

(313) 563-1240 or (888) DCS-5515

Bret Abdullah, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

*Dearborn Christian School is a parent-sponsored day school striving for academic excellence in a Christ-centered educational environment where God's Word permeates all areas of learning and is the pattern for all relationships.*

 **God drew hearts together at DCS!**  *The followi*

Doug Stratsma ('69) and Patty DeHamer ('69)

Doug Elenbaas ('69) and Gail Soper ('69)

Mike Gabrielse ('74) and Jane Weidenaar ('75)

Randy VanDoornik ('80) and Leah Zuidema ('90)

*Engaged to be married on June 8, 2008:*

Eric Hoolsema ('00) and Alecia Webb ('00)

*Please let us know if we have missed any!*

## **Reunion Activities**

We hope you all will be able attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Everyone who has attended DCS in the past and their parents are invited! All activities will be held at the school/church. Here is the tentative schedule of activities:

|             |                                     |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1:00 - 5:00 | Fellowship/Tours of original school |
| 5:00 - 5:30 | Opening program                     |
| 5:30 - 6:45 | Buffet-style dinner                 |
| 7:00 - 8:15 | Reunion Program in church sanctuary |

**Our next Happenings in April will contain Anniversary registration information.**



*5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students playing tether ball at the original school. Note the merry-go-round in the background. It is still in use at the current school! (Photo from Harold Mulder, former principal.)*