



ILLIANA CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED PERIODICALLY BY THE SCHOOL BOARD

FALL 2010

Excellent Service

It is important that we have a broad and deep understanding of service. Our mission statement says that we aspire to have all our graduates serving God and others. To promote and nurture acts and attitudes of service at Illiana we have a very active Christian Service Club. This year the club has already collected \$3000 to drill two wells to provide fresh water to two communities across the world. They are planning a big night of dodge ball to raise funds for Kelsey Ebbens, a student that has been suffering from debilitating pain. They have made their own soup and then served it to some hungry folks in the Rose-land community. They also packed high nutrition meals for Feed My Starving Children. It is a delight to see this group thriving and so active—clearly committed to the challenge of serving God and others! And it is exciting to see this club encourage the enthusiastic involvement of so many students in acts of service.

We have other programs emphasizing service also. Seniors can elect to take Senior Service and work for about an hour every school day at an elementary school or a nursing home. Although they can take this instead of Bible 4, they all have chosen to take Bible 4 in addition to Senior Service. In the spring, we also have a day of service for the entire school. Our thirty-three homerooms fan out across the Chicago area, doing acts

of service at various non-profits and charitable organizations. Last year, a group of students and teachers went to the Dominican Republic not only for cultural exchange but also to work hard on building a Christian school. Students in our Reformed Perspectives on Culture class are all required to perform at least one act of service to others.



It is a delight to know that there are so many ways in which students are being challenged and affirmed in acting charitably toward others. Too often Christians throughout North America are known more for their intolerance of others than for their charity to others. And I believe our own school community has historically emphasized head over heart and both

of those over hands. So it is especially encouraging to see students acting as the hands and feet of Christ in a very needy world. It would be a badge of honor to be known as much for our service as for academic prowess.

But performing acts of service does not fully express our gratitude and faith as Christians. In fact, those who “do good” are always in danger of hypocrisy when their acts of service do not match an attitude of service. As Christians we hope our acts of service are seen as expressions of love consistent with a whole life of service to God and others. Just as we hope our Sunday morn-

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