

A Great Work

In this Issue ...

Band Festival	2
MACS SO/VB Tourney	4
Calendar	8
JV BB Tournament	8

Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

By Alan J. Hodak, MACS Executive Director

The context of Nehemiah 6:3 gives us an understanding that in the midst of doing a work for God, the road may be difficult.

For Nehemiah, the building of the wall in 52 days, was a remarkable feat and a great work indeed. From Nehemiah 6, we learn three lessons about building—and the process of building into the lives of our students and families, as well as trying to build credible and excellent school programs, means that the work is never done. Yes, there is light at the end of the tunnel—Christmas Break and Summer—but the truth is that for each one of your students, there is an ongoing work and I want to stress the importance of just how great a work it really is, even though it is, at times, an arduous work.

Three lessons from Nehemiah:

If the work is a great work, it sometimes may lead to frustration. Four times the enemy came to discourage with lies, threats, and even a plan to cause Nehemiah to hide. All attempts led to frustration, but the work didn't come to a halt. The leader of the work pressed on, realizing that the call of God upon his life to continue the work was his priority until the work was completed. And may I say that I am grateful to God that He never gives up working on

me, growing me up because the work He is doing in me and you is yet to be complete.



If the work is a great work, and there are successes, you can bank on the fact that Satan will throw a hitch in it. Sometimes when we see successes in behavior or academics, or if we have made strides, or we think we finally have the control of our class, we feel like we are taking a step backward and having to repeat again and again. While some classes are easier than others, you may have that one difficult class this year. One day will be a high, and the next may be a low. This is not stated to discourage you, but rather to help you remember that we have an unseen enemy who does not want the spiritual light bulb to go on in the lives of your students. Not only must you be on guard for yourself, but during the hours of the school day, and sometimes beyond, you are called to watch and guard the young hearts and lives you are mentoring.

(Continued on page 3)

MACS Band Festival 2023

The 2023 MACS Band Festival was held on Friday, November 10 at Fourth Baptist. 103 students from four MACS schools participated that day. Students rehearsed a total of almost five hours together that day to present the final concert at 6:30 p.m. to a great crowd of around 200 people.

Students and their directors rehearsed the festival music in advance and did a great job combining together into one large band. Our guest conductor was Mr. Andrew Bonnema from Maranatha Baptist University, who did a great job instructing and leading the ensemble.

He chose four songs for the band to perform including *Peacemaker March* by Karl King, *And All the Bells Shall Ring* by Rob Romeyn, *A Walk in The Morning Sun* by Pierre LaPlante, and *Critical Mass* by Todd Stalter. The eighteen percussionists rehearsed a percussion ensemble song called

Here Drums Christmas that they also performed in the final concert.

We were privileged to have nine sectional coaches with us that morning to share instrument specific instruction and also assist each section with their band music. Two of the sectional coaches, Ms. Teresa Herbert and Mrs. Abigail Nicholson, played solos for our concert and showed the students the value of being a life-long musician!

Throughout the day, students enjoyed snack breaks, great meals, and a fun Minute to Win It game time. We thank all of the parents, teachers, students, sectional coaches, meal coordinators, and concert-goers for making this a great day of learning for our MACS band students!

~Levi Kolwinska



Our enemy wants our schools to fail. He wants you to be discouraged and feel like hiding, but it is absolutely imperative that you and I realize that the work we are called to do is such an important work. And the reason we come up against a wall, at times, is because Satan knows how important a work it is. Celebrate the successes and praise God for them, but pray through every part of every one of your days so that God's grace will provide just enough to complete the task for that day.



If the work is a great work, and you persevere through it, those who would be critical of you will become disheartened in the end. This point is especially for you pastors and school administrators. Leading a ministry has its challenges because so many relationships are involved. We cannot please everyone, so we make decisions based on what we believe glorifies our Lord and sometimes we find ourselves making those hard decisions alone.

Please see verse 16 because it is the crown of this chapter: "And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it (the fact that the work was done and the wall was completed in 52 days) and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God." If God has placed you in the work, teacher, or He has given you the responsibility to lead it, pastor or administrator, He is also faithful to walk you through it. I Thessalonians 5:24, "He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it." He is the One who showers His grace upon grace upon you to do the work. He is the One who will give you the wisdom to make decisions and the words to speak if you ask Him. And He wants you to depend wholly upon Him for the work because you cannot fail at the work if God is in it! Because, in essence, it is His work, and if it is God's work, then it cannot be anything but a great work!

I want to thank you for your work. Thank you for your hours of labor teaching and guiding our young people. Thank you for the hours of planning and praying, preparing, and creating. Learn to trust our God through the work like Nehemiah did; be determined to complete the work as Nehemiah did; do not let the bumps in the road throw off your end objective like Nehemiah did; and most importantly, praise the Lord when you pillow your tired heads at night, thanking God for what was accomplished. Rehearse the good things, cast the cares and bad things to the Lord, and press on like Nehemiah did. God will take care of the naysayers – He's got it all under control. You focus on the work because, my friend, it is truly a Great Work! ~Alan J. Hodak

MACS Varsity Soccer & Volleyball Tournament 2023



Once again Rosemount hosted the MACS State Tournament for soccer and volleyball. The tournament saw some upsets in the first round which made for some thrilling semi-final matchups. In the volleyball semi-final, Chisago lost to the number 1 seed Fourth Baptist and the number 2 seed St. Francis Patriots defeated the number 3 seeded Woodcrest Warriors. Fourth and St. Francis met in a rematch of last year's championship where Fourth prevailed to win a three-peat in volleyball. Woodcrest finished 3rd place defeating Chisago, and Rosemount won the consolation bracket.

On the boys side, the semi-final featured a matchup between number 1 seeded Rosemount against the number 4 seeded Prior Lake. Rosemount prevailed against a great up and

coming team. The second semi-final game featured a matchup between Lake Region and Chisago. The number 2 seed Lake Region had a dominating performance and were able to beat a talented Chisago team 6-2. Rosemount and Lake Region faced off in a repeat of the past two championship games. Rosemount was able to prevail and win their third consecutive championship against a well-coached and talented Lake Region team.

What a great tournament and what a great job each school did competing with a Christ-like spirit. We look forward to next year's tournament hosted by Lake Region Christian School.

~Shawn McKinney



2023 MACS State Soccer & Volleyball Tourney Results

Boys' Soccer

Champions: First Baptist, Rosemount Crusaders

Second Place: Lake Region Hornets

Third Place: Prior Lake Royals

Fourth Place: Chisago Patriots

Consolation (Fifth Place): Fourth Baptist Warriors



Girls' Volleyball

Champions: Fourth Baptist Warriors

Second Place: St. Francis Patriots

Third Place: Woodcrest Warriors

Fourth Place: Chisago Patriots

Consolation (Fifth Place): First Baptist, Rosemount Crusaders



Boys Soccer All-Tournament Team:

1. Kovii Boldt – St. Francis
2. Carsten Markgraf – Fourth
3. Kavan Lundblad – Chisago
4. Noah Rogers – Prior Lake
5. Zachary Choi – Prior Lake
6. Soren Benson – Lake Region
7. Joe Bostrom – Lake Region
8. Hayden Neubert – Lake Region
9. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
10. Abram Terrazas – Rosemount
11. Levi Borner – Rosemount
12. Jon Anaya – Rosemount
13. Josh Anderson (MVP) – Rosemount

Girls Volleyball All-Tournament Team:

1. Lydia Wynja – Rosemount
2. Mariah Cave – Chisago
3. Juliet Thrun – Woodcrest
4. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
5. Anastasia Vlasyuk – St. Francis
6. Moriah Brower – St. Francis
7. Alyssa Stephens – Fourth
8. Clara Rieschl – Fourth
9. JoJo Rieschl (MVP) – Fourth



You did it!
Congratulations



Rosemount Crusaders—
Soccer Champions

Lake Region Hornets—
2nd place



Above: Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors—Volleyball Champions
at Right: St. Francis Lady Patriots—2nd place



All-Conference Soccer



First Team – Soccer

1. Kavan Lundblad – Chisago
2. Kovii Boldt – St. Francis
3. Albert Sharkevich – Woodcrest
4. Zachary Choi – Prior Lake
5. Isaac Caasi – Fourth
6. Carsten Markgraf – Fourth
7. Soren Benson – Lake Region
8. Joseph Bostrom – Lake Region
9. Abram Terrazas – Rosemount
10. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
11. Josh Anderson – Rosemount

Second Team – Soccer

1. Tommy Brink – Chisago
2. Micah Brower – St. Francis
3. Roman Sharkevich – Woodcrest
4. Noah Rogers – Prior Lake
5. Aiden Pautz – Prior Lake
6. Caleb Choi – Prior Lake
7. Grant Vikander – Fourth
8. Hayden Neubert – Lake Region
9. Brody Kovatovich – Lake Region
10. Jonathan Anaya – Rosemount
11. Levi Borner – Rosemount

Honorable Mention – Soccer

1. Nathan French – Fourth
2. Josiah Brombacher – Fourth
3. Shaun Larson – Fourth
4. Ryan Arns – Lake Region
5. Boston Johnson – Rosemount

All-Conference Volleyball

First Team – Volleyball

1. Mariah Cave – Chisago
2. Lydia Wynja – Rosemount
3. Renata Echebengua – Woodcrest
4. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
5. Moriah Brower – St. Francis
6. Annika Bauer – St. Francis
7. Clara Rieschl – Fourth
8. JoJo Rieschl – Fourth

Second Team – Volleyball

1. Audrey Long – Owatonna
2. Mirelli Fritz – Prior Lake
3. Becca Cave – Chisago
4. Katie Klejwa – Rosemount
5. Juliet Thrun – Woodcrest
6. Anastasia Vlasyuk – St. Francis
7. Eryn Friesse – St. Francis
8. Alyssa Stephens – Fourth

Honorable Mention – Volleyball

1. Madeline Wolters – Prior Lake
2. Ava Lee – Chisago
3. Hannah Fawcett – Lighthouse
4. Laila Jacobson – Owatonna
5. Keira Wynja – Rosemount
6. Senichell Samchandra – Woodcrest
7. Stella Multerer – St. Francis
8. Sophia Morell – Fourth



*All-Conference Awards are voted on
by the coaches. Congratulations!*



Soccer 1st Team All Conference: Kavan Lundblad, Kovii Boldt, Zachary Choi, Isaac Caasi, Carsten Markgraf, Soren Benson, Joe Bostrom, Abram Terrazas, Owen Nelson, Josh Anderson. (not pictured: Albert Sharkevich)



Soccer All-Tournament Team: Kovii Boldt, Carsten Markgraf, Kavan Lundblad, Noah Rogers, Zachary Choi, Soren Benson, Josh Anderson, Hayden Neubert, Joe Bostrom, Owen Nelson, Abram Terrazas, Levi Borner, Jon Anaya.



Volleyball 1st Team All-Conference: Julia Ureke, Renata Echebengua, Mariah Cave, Lydia Wynja, Moriah Brower, Annika Bauer, Clara Rieschl, JoJo Rieschl.



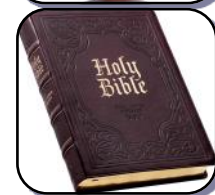
Volleyball All-Tournament Team: Julia Ureke, Lydia Wynja, Mariah Cave, Juliet Thrun, JoJo Rieschl, Anastasia Vlasjuk, Moriah Brower, Alyssa Stephens, Clara Rieschl.



Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

2023-24 MACS Events Calendar

- **November 13, Monday**—Basketball team practices may begin
- **November 17-18, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JV Basketball Tournament at Chisago
- **February 8, Thursday**—MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest
- **February 9-10, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JH Basketball Tournament at Rosemount
- **February 16, Friday**—last scheduled conference game for Basketball seeding
- **February 23, Friday**—Play-in games for Basketball tournament
- **February 26-27, Monday & Tuesday**—Basketball first round tournament games at higher seed
- **March 1-2, Friday & Saturday**—MACS Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist and Woodcrest
- **March 8**—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount
- **April 12, Friday**—MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS Annual Meeting—10:00am at Fourth Baptist



MACS JV Basketball Tournament

Athletic Director Cindy Matson and the coaching staff of Chisago Lakes Baptist School did a fantastic job of hosting their annual JV kick-off tournament in mid-November. All of the participants played hard and were able to better fine tune their skill set for the upcoming season. The Rosemount ladies JV team defeated Chisago for the championship and the Fourth Baptist boys team won an overtime thriller to beat the Rosemount boys! Once again, thank you to Chisago for hosting our MACS schools this past weekend. ~Shawn McKinney



Fourth Baptist JV Boys



First Baptist JV Girls