

Thoughts from Chris

At the time of this writing Pomp and Circumstance is ringing in the ears of all those that recently graduated from High School. While all the underclassmen are thinking about what their summers are going to look like, those graduates are thinking about the remainder of their lives at home or the sudden attainment of freedom and responsibility. Soon each one will trade the stress of tests for the stress of financial burdens, balancing relationships, acquiring a job, entering the military or going off to school by themselves. Are our students prepared? Who do they look to for guidance and security during these times?

Most are looking toward their friends and popular social “norms” to find direction. After several years many will regret the path they chose. In this community students have a great opportunity to become prepared for the trials ahead by being involved in one of the many programs The Gate provides. I am so excited about what the amazing team of volunteers at The Gate has done this year in helping students grasp hope for their future. I challenge you to do your part in helping our community to become one known for their love of students and a deep desire to see them succeed.

Chris

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Tutor kids after school
- Hang out with the kids at FUSE
- Help cook lunches or suppers
- Teach an after-school class

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The Gate Youth Association



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You'll find a lot happening in this 5th edition of Inside The Gate. In fact we had hoped to put in a couple photos from the Living a Legacy Dinner and just ran out of room! I would promise some next time, but with the Golf Tournament, new building plans, implementation of the new grant with CHS and plans for another year of Church Lunch we may have to use even smaller type for our next issue!

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CHS Grant Collaboration

As the after-school homework program came to a successful first year's end, The Gate was asked to collaborate further with the Central School District in procuring a 21st Century After School Program Grant for Central and Talmadge Middle School. The grant writer, Dorie Vickery, did an outstanding job of writing the grant and just last week we received the exciting news that the grant was funded.

The grant will allow growth of the present after school homework program from three days a week to four, add other special interest classes in addition to the cooking classes offered at The Gate this year, make dinner available to participating students four nights a week rather than the one The Gate prepared this year, add paid staff positions and provide transportation home for bus riding students

Under the new grant The Gate will still provide volunteer homework helpers and the present Thursday recreational FUSE event will be integrated into the afterschool choices for all students. Additionally, the First Baptist Church will provide classroom space for several of the special interest classes occurring throughout the year. These classes will move to The Gate upon it's completion someday!

The Gate is looking forward to the increased collaboration with the Central School District and is very thankful to have had the opportunity to work with Central High School this year. A special thanks goes to Denise Chase, the CHS librarian who graciously allowed us to use her facility as home to our after school homework program.

Thursday FUSE

FUSE, our Thursday afternoon recreational program, will continue throughout the month of June. We have been thankful again this year for Corban College student, Jeremy West, who weekly interacted with students on a variety of conversation topics in addition to being extremely competitive in any board or card game. Sadly, Jeremy graduated and is off to make his mark in the world. (Volunteer opportunity!)

A New Building Concept

Ben Bobeda and Donn Wahl met with our architect and our contractor early last month to discuss a new "phase one" concept. The beginning phase would incorporate the gymnasium, kitchen, café, offices and utilize the planned stage area for a game room. Phase 2 would then add the classrooms and gameroom. This approach will get us a usable building for about 1/2 the starting cost. We should see some new drawings and construction estimates soon.

Thanks to WOU Students & Staff

We have been grateful for the wonderful Western Oregon University students who have served as tutors and mentors throughout the school year. All 12 WOU students have been from Dr. Maureen Dolan's sociology classes. Many have been bi-lingual which has greatly enhanced CHS student learning in all content areas. It has been very encouraging seeing the CHS students' grades improving and being able to celebrate with graduating seniors as they complete their senior projects.

Living a Legacy Dinner

Our April fundraising dinner was a success on several counts. With over 100 in attendance we raised over \$30,000 including a matching gift from the Salem Leadership Foundation—a local organization with a kindred goal of using churches to better neighborhoods. Another success was that nearly half of those attending weren't there when we held our kick-off dinner two years ago. Awareness of and support for The Gate continues to grow!

Church Lunch Wraps up Another Year

The Lunch Ladies finished their 19th year of warming the tummies and spirits of our high school students. Nearly 200 them on each of the last two Tuesdays! Diane Riddell, Allison Omlid, Jan Pratt, Denise Robison, Joy Hoffman, Diane Silberstein, Cheri Waddell, Kathy Heide and Janet Piper are the remarkable ladies who make it all happen. Plans for next year may include a separate freshman lunch as the CHS schedule changes.

Thanks for a great year, Lunch Ladies!

3rd Annual Golf Tournament

Plans are shifting into high gear for this summer's golf tournament. The place—Oak Knoll Golf Course. The date—August 16th. Give Joe Johnson a call at 503-838-6082 to register or line up your hole sponsorship. Having fun and helping kids—you can't beat it!!

See you on the links!