

June 2010

Dear MRCA Parents:

I hope this letter finds you and your family enjoying your summer vacation. School has been out for a little over a week, but we are already busy making preparations for the 2010-2011 school year. Before I share with you about the upcoming events of 2010/2011, I want to reflect on how God has blessed us this year.

We began this year with a lot of uncertainty due to the economic climate we were all facing. However, God was so gracious in not only providing a good enrollment but numerous times we also saw Him provide for the needs of struggling families. It has been amazing to watch God provide for His children. I am thankful for the many spirit-led and generous people who gave to help others this year. 'In light of all the uncertainty around us, God remains our rock and refuge . . . an ever present help in our time of need.' Psalm 46:1-3.

The Middle School retreats this year were incredible. Seeing God work in the hearts of our teens is just amazing. To witness many of our students coming to a personal relationship with Christ was priceless and is the main distinctive proponent of a Christian education for your children.

Our SERVE-A-Thon was better than we could have hoped for. Through the generosity and support of so many of you, we actually exceeded our SERVE-A-Thon goal of \$52,000 dollars and will be able to begin Phase I of our Technology make-over this summer. Beginning in June, our faculty will receive new computers equipped with Windows 07 and Microsoft 2010. The administrative offices, the library, lunchroom, CASA, and the Early Education teacher workroom will all receive new computers and be upgraded with the latest software. In addition, we will be able to purchase three Smart Boards - one to be installed in the Computer Lab and the other two will be placed in classrooms. But we aren't finished yet! We will purchase 57 flat screen monitors, a wireless keyboard and mouse for 33 computers, 5 audio visual projectors called 'Elmo's, 2 audio visual carts, and 3 LCD projectors. As you can see, we have worked very hard to use the money raised wisely and efficiently "to get the best bang for our buck." Again, God has blessed us tremendously.

Next year money raised during our SERVE-A-Thon will allow us to focus on Phase 2 of our Technology make-over. With these funds, we hope to increase the number of Smart Boards in the classrooms and be able to replace and upgrade the school's server which will expand the technological options for your children.

MRCA also conducted a Parent Survey this past fall and the results were very encouraging. Those of you who took the survey provided positive comments and gave us good suggestions for the future. The survey reminded us of the vested interest our parents have in MRCA and your desire for us to be the very best. I am so thankful for your continued participation, support, and encouragement through this survey.

Our 8th grade graduation is always the culminating highlight of our school year. Again this year, it was a spectacular evening as we honored our graduates and their families. There is something humbling in watching our students graduate and remembering where God has brought them since their arrival at MRCA. I am always grateful when parents and grandparents stop and thank me for the impact MRCA has made not only on their children but also on them. I'd like to share with you this comment from one of our 8th grade parents:

"We would like to express our appreciation to the entire staff at MRCA for making middle school an amazing experience for our daughter. She was stretched academically, socially, and spiritually. God uses so many tools to do His work. One of the very significant tools used in our daughter's life has been MRCA. We just wanted to thank you all and remind you of the eternal kingdom work you do each day. God bless."

I want to share with you the exciting things that will take place at MRCA next year. However, in order to keep this letter from being quite lengthy, I am attaching a summary sheet for you listing the new possibilities and programs you can be a part of during the 2010-2011 school year.

Finally, I want to remind you that the **“2010 Summer Packet”** information is readily available and easily downloaded from the “Parent” link on our website at www.mitchellroadchristian.org. Again this year, the website will be the key way for us to disseminate information to our families. Please take a minute to check it out. For those of you who may not have computer access, you may contact the school office, 864-268-2210, Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and we will be glad to help you with this information.

In closing, thank you for your continued support of Mitchell Road Christian Academy and for entrusting your precious children to us. It is both a privilege and an honor to partner with you in raising up the next generation for Christ.

I pray you and your family have a safe and refreshing summer. We look forward to seeing you on your child’s first day of school in August.

Should you have any questions regarding any of this information, please call the school office, 268-2210.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert C. Schmidt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "S".

Robert C. Schmidt
Headmaster

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT MRCA FOR 2010-2011

AUTOMATIC DRAFT PAYMENT OPTIONS

We are once again offering the Auto Draft Payment option for your monthly tuition payments. New this year, however, is the option of additionally having your lunch, CASA, and Middle School retreat payments drafted from your account. The Auto Draft Payment form, attached to your invoice in this packet of information, explains these additional options. The form may also be found on our website – www.mitchellroadchristian.org under the ‘Parent Info,’ ‘Summer Packet Information’ link. The Auto Draft option is easy to set up and can simplify all your monthly payments. **All automated payments will be drafted on the 15th of each month.** We encourage you to utilize this easy payment option. Should you have questions about this option, please call the Business Office at 268-2210, x314.

New this year as well, all tuition payments will now be considered late on the 15th rather than the 10th of each month.

PTF REORGANIZATION

During school last year, there were several parent meetings held to gather ideas and feedback for what we could do to make MRCA a better place. Out of those meetings came the realization that reorganizing our PTF structure would greatly enhance the communication ties between MRCA and our parents.

A stated purpose for PTF was created - ‘In partnering with Christian families, Mitchell Road Christian Academy endeavors to equip families to grow in their relationship with Christ within their community and the world. Parents help accomplish this purpose through their support, honor, and encouragement of MRCA.’

The new structure of PTF is based on the concept of 3 cords intertwined taken from Ecclesiastes 4:12B – “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” There are three components to our three cord structure, (1) Inter-relational, (2) Community Relations, and (3) Spiritual Relations with each of these three components having a coordinator(s). Those coordinators are:

INTER-RELATIONAL COORDINATORS

Early Education	Rachel Schrader
Elementary	Andrea Hueble
Middle School	Beth Ware

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Lorri Philpot

SPIRITUAL RELATIONS COORDINATOR

Margo Patton

The challenge from our Headmaster at the May Volunteer Breakfast was “The Bigger the Dream, the Bigger the Team.” His challenge stated that to accomplish the “Big Dream” God has for our children, we need a “Big Team” of parents and teachers involved in providing the best education, opportunities, and experiences at MRCA. The challenge simply is for more parents to come alongside the MRCA administration to help the school and the PTF coordinators accomplish the many goals set out for the school year ahead. If everyone does what they can, much can be accomplished; therefore, creating a stronger relationship between our parents and the faculty and staff of MRCA.

The coordinators for each of the three cords will request help from our parents for each event that falls under their area. A more detailed explanation of how this will work will be given at all our Back-to-School Nights in August.

We are very excited about PTF this year and hope you will pray and seek those ways you can be involved at MRCA during the 2010-2011 school year.

MRCA ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

After a long process, the necessary papers have been filed for the creation of the MRCA Foundation. This is a separate 501-C-3 foundation set up to raise monies specifically for Mitchell Road Christian Academy. This endowment is being created in an attempt to offset future tuition increases as well as provide funding for the following three purposes:

1. To assist and supplement faculty and staff salaries and benefits, thus providing MRCA with the ability to attract the best new teachers as well as retain the excellent teachers at MRCA.
2. To provide additional scholarship funds for families with financial needs. This will allow MRCA to continue its affordability to more families and assist more families with multiple children.
3. To provide for capital and classroom projects that will enhance the resources needed for our teachers and students.

We would ask for your prayers as we seek to fund this endowment and then watch the Lord work through the endowment.

MRCA's "PARTNERS IN EDUCATION" PROGRAM

Recently Mitchell Road Christian Academy partnered with **Breakaway Honda** in launching the "Partners in Education" program for the 2010-2011 school year.

The idea behind this partnership is that MRCA will partner with Breakaway Honda in promoting the dealership to our parents, faculty/staff, and alumni through various venues throughout the school year. In return, Breakaway Honda will offer various services to the families at MRCA. With each Breakaway Honda service utilized by our families, Breakaway will give a donation back to MRCA. For example, each time an MRCA family member has a car serviced at Breakaway, the school will receive a \$5.00 donation. The nice part about Breakaway's service policy is that they service all makes and models of cars, not just Honda's. As well, each time an MRCA family member buys a new or used car from Breakaway, Breakaway will donate \$200 to MRCA. The program began June 1, 2010. If you have any specific questions or are looking for a new or used car, please phone Mitch Jenkins at 234-6632 and let him know you are part of the MRCA family.

For those of you who have missed having a printed Student Directory, the exiting news about this partnership is that Breakaway Honda will underwrite the cost of printing our Student Directory which will advertise the "Partners in Education" program. This is truly a win/win situation for the MRCA family and Breakaway Honda. Parents will receive the much missed Student Directory and Breakaway has a venue to advertise their services; MRCA in turn, garners another source of income to underwrite opportunities for our students and faculty/staff.

The response to this program from those who have heard about it has been very favorable. They like the concept . . . but the question has always been, "What about other MRCA businesses?" In answer to that question, Breakaway Honda, in conjunction with its "Partners in Education" program, has agreed to provide a section in the back of the Student Directory for other businesses to advertise their services. There will be a cost associated with the ad; however, Breakaway Honda will work with the businesses to create an advertisement for the section and in turn return a portion of the cost for the ad to MRCA. The section would become a sort of "MRCA Yellow Pages" for those businesses who have children at MRCA. Parents with business can let others know about their services, and MRCA can promote those services as well as receive revenues from those services to put back into MRCA.

Since this is a new venture, MRCA and Breakaway Honda are still working out the final details in order that this "partnership" is beneficial to all involved. The directories will not be printed until early September; therefore, if you would like to be a part of our new "Partners in Education" program or have an idea for the program, please phone Bob Schmidt, 268-2210.

MRCA is excited about the possibilities this program offers for our future. We want to thank Breakaway Honda for their willingness to partner with Mitchell Road Christian Academy and to pioneer this new program. We hope you will support Breakaway Honda and MRCA through this program.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (CASA) CHANGES

Please be aware of the following changes taking place in our CASA program for the 2010-2011 school year.

1. **K3 students** will now be able to remain in CASA until 3:30 p.m.
2. CASA will **bill on a monthly** rather than weekly basis for the 2010-2011 school year.

Spaces fill up quickly each year so please make sure you get your registration information in as soon as possible.

NEW TEACHERS FOR 2010-2011

MRCA is proud and excited to announce the hiring of two new faculty members for the vacancies in K5 and Middle School 5th/6th grade Science.

Roberta Beagle, who chooses to be called Robbie, will be teaching Middle School 5th/6th grade science classes. Robbie is a veteran teacher with over 20 years experience, having taught in the elementary, middle school, and high school grades. She enjoys teaching Middle School science and watching her student's blossom and get excited about science.

Ashley Sarratt is our new K5 Kindergarten teacher. She has four years experience and comes highly recommended. She is a graduate of Furman University and is married to an alumni student of MRCA. She enjoys teaching and wants to give the gift of a love of reading to her students.

Please give both Robbie and Ashley a warm MRCA welcome when you meet them!