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## SEEN. KNOWN. LOVED.

by Beth Sondgeroth, Head of School

It is often the case God uses everyday activities to teach us the most profound spiritual truths, if we will only stop and pay attention to what is happening around us. I had such an experience during Friday afternoon dismissal at the end of the first week of school. I was stationed at one of the colored posts in the car loading line when a third grade girl was called to join me at my spot. As she approached, she said, "I saw you in chapel today. You're the Head of School, right?"

I answered, "I am. I saw you there, too. Is your name Aarohi?"

"It is! You know my name? There are lots of kids in this school. It's cool that you know my name," she said.

"I do. God knows your name, too, and there are lots more people in this world than there are in just our school. Isn't that pretty cool? He knows all the names of all the people in the world, and He never forgets a single one."

Aarohi was quiet for a moment. It seemed she was considering that big idea. Then she said, "You know what? I really love this school!"

As her mom arrived at the pick-up spot, I said, "I really love this school, too, and I am so glad you are a part of it with me!" I opened her car door, greeted her mom, and wished them both a great weekend. As they were waiting to pull away, I heard Arohi telling her mother, "My Head of School knows my name! I saw her in chapel today. I really love this school!"

As they rolled on through the line, I stood there thinking how special it is to be seen and known. In God's order of things, we don't need to be visible to be valuable. We are valuable simply because we are made in His image. But, seeing and being seen, knowing and being known – these are at the heart of authentic relationships with God and others. A simple exchange with a third grade girl reminded me that I am seen and made her feel known.

I saw Aarohi again the other day as we were leaving the gym following another chapel



Mrs. Sondgeroth and Aarohi



service. She said, "Hi! I saw you again! Do you still know my name?"

"I do. It's Aarohi."

"That's good that you remember. But even if you didn't, God knows my name, and He'll never forget it!" She beamed a big smile in my direction, and I don't think I'll ever forget that moment. I was reminded again in a most tangible way: We are seen. We are known. And, despite the fact that what God sees and knows about us is not always pretty, we are loved. Out of the overflow of that love, Christ paid the penalty of our sin and poured out His love on us that we could live in the family of God. "Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God. And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1)

It is our fervent prayer that every member of our school community knows what it means to be seen, known, and loved by the God of the universe and by the special people He has called to the CornerstONE FAMILY. If we ask God for His eyes to see others and we take steps to get to know the wonderful people He has placed around us, we will experience a deeper love for Christ and for one another.

I am so grateful for the unique community God has established at Cornerstone Christian Academy. I really love this school, and I am so glad to be a part of it with you!



CCA FACULTY & STAFF  
2021-2022

## 2021 FOUNDER'S CONVOCATION

Thursday, November 11th at 6:00 PM  
Cornerstone Christian Academy Gymnasium



We are excited to welcome Becky Shames, Founding Head of School, back to campus as our guest speaker! Please plan to join us to celebrate 25 years of God's faithfulness.

Limited seats are available. Call 309.662.9900 or email [ciara.corley@cornerstonechristian.com](mailto:ciara.corley@cornerstonechristian.com) to reserve your seat today. You do not want to miss it!

### Praise & Prayer

Did you know a monthly prayer list is available on our website? Find it [www.cornerstonechristian.com](http://www.cornerstonechristian.com), under *Support > Prayer Opportunities > Let's Pray!*

We are thanking God for:

- A cement slab and basketball hoops on our playground
- New students and families (enrollment is 465 students)
- 25 years of educating world changers at CCA



We are praying for:

- The salvation and spiritual growth of each student
- More classroom and athletic practice space
- God to work powerfully during chapels this year
- The financial pay off on the remaining balance of our mortgage -- freeing us to begin next stages of building expansion

#### 2021-2022 SHAMESS SCHOLARS NAMED

Founding Head of School, Becky Shames, led others in developing a clear vision and mission for the school which are articulated in the motto "Educating World-Changers." In recognition of this, the Board of Trustees established the Shames Scholarship to be awarded annually to a sophomore, junior, and senior.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients, Emma Sorensen (senior), Ryan Allen (junior), and Malea Shaw (sophomore), and their families! We look forward to seeing how God will use you to shape the Cornerstone Community and to serve and influence the world in His name and for His glory!



Pictured above: Mr. Rassi, Kate Hancock, Rachel Rogers, Jefferson Dhas, Emma Sorensen, Ryan Allen, Malea Shaw, and Mrs. Sondgeroth

#### 2021-2022 KINZINGER BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS NAMED

The Kinzinger Award for Biblical Leadership is given annually to one recipient per grade level in grades 7, 8, and 9 who demonstrate passion for God's Word, live out their passion before their peers, and exhibit potential for spiritual leadership going forward.

Congratulations to this year's award recipients, Kate Hancock (9th grade), Rachel Rogers (8th grade), Jefferson Dhas (7th grade), and their families. We pray that your love of the Lord and His Word will grow and that He will indeed use you to serve and influence the world in His name!

**Want to help spread the word about Cornerstone? Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages for the latest happenings at school, and then share with your friends!**



#### 2021 Graduates:

- Megan Allen
- Andrew Anderson
- Colston Blackwood
- Caden Bowars
- Dillingger Cagle
- Ellie Carrington
- Kole Damkoehler
- Rica DeBarba
- Esten Garey
- Tyler Gott
- Krista Hubbard
- Michele Jenkins
- Noah Kalmes
- Maggie Kaufmann
- Chloe Knowlton
- Elise Masters
- Sydney McDonald
- Jared Montney
- Joelle Olabode
- Abraham O'Neall
- James Scott
- Adam Shadday
- Samuel Walker
- William Waterson
- Quinn Willard
- Regan Wilson
- Zachary Wolfe



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2021!**  
Commencement was held on May 29, 2021.