

Parent Newsletter

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EACH month our administrative team wants to give you information relevant to your child's experience at Wheaton Academy as well as mention key issues that we face as we seek to partner in helping students know Jesus better, develop a biblical worldview, discover their gifts and prepare for God's call on their life.

This month we want to share about the following topics:

- Day of Prayer
- Leadership Development at WA
- Kids Alive Partnership
- New Textbook Acquisition Process for 2018-19
- Vaping
- Next Few Weeks at a Glance

We are thankful for our community at Wheaton Academy; we truly have a wonderful group of students and families. It is a privilege to work with you and your child.

The mission of Wheaton Academy is to nurture growth in students through relationships, excellence and service to the glory of God

Day of Prayer

On April 20, 2018, Wheaton Academy hosted a school wide "Day of Prayer." Students from all different classes participated in lifting up their requests throughout each hour of the day. Hundreds of students moved in and out of a classroom designated for prayer. Prayers for our world, our country, our local community, and our school were lifted up between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Students prayed quietly, prayed in groups, wrote prayers, and participated in a way that was truly a testimony to God's great work in students' lives. More than anything we want students to have the vision that as we seek to build God's Kingdom, the most important work we do is to pray. As a community, we want to ask God to continue to bring His Kingdom here to earth. Our students modelled this type of prayer, and it is something that we will look to continue in the future.

Leadership Development at WA

Leadership development is a distinct passion at Wheaton Academy. The Project LEAD program is the primary catalyst for leadership development and provides an opportunity for juniors and seniors to grow as leaders. This past year, 110 seniors guided our school in eight areas of ministry. The areas of ministry allowed our school to participate in acts of service to students on our own campus, neighbors in the West Chicago community, and others around the world. While this year's group of seniors wrap up their leadership journey at Wheaton Academy, they will be passing the baton to a record-setting 130 students who are finishing their junior year. These rising leaders will seek to raise \$20,000 for our global partners, minister to our local community, manage chapels, welcome international students, lead prayer events, guide "huddles" at local middle schools, run student activities, feed the homeless, and mentor the incoming freshman class. Please join us in praying that our students understand the power of the gospel in their leadership roles.

Kids Alive Partnership

Wheaton Academy has been in partnership with global ministry initiatives for the past several years. In the last three years, we developed a dynamic partnership with Kids Alive. The partnership has included a child sponsorship program in which WA students provide \$1,000 each month to care for 25 children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. In addition, students from WA travel on missions trips to these locations to ensure that there is a face to face ministry component. This month, Wheaton Academy was able to go above and beyond our monthly donation. Due to the generosity of the student body, Wheaton

Academy will provide \$20,000 to help drive a food program which will provide a daily meal for 170 kids in Haiti well into the fall season. This food program has the potential to provide close to 30,000 meals for kids who are in need of nourishment as they grow, learn, and study in Haiti. We are so grateful for the work that God is doing here at WA and with the ministry of Kids Alive.

New Textbook Acquisition Process for 2018-19

New for next year and for the convenience of our school families, Wheaton Academy will process pre-bundled book rental orders from eTECHcampus for each student. The cost of the ALL ACCESS rental option is \$375.00 per student and will be billed to each family's Smart Tuition account on the September invoice. This process is different from previous years, and students will be able to pick up their books at WA on August 20, the day before school begins. Your family may choose to opt out of this convenient option, by indicating that decision at the bottom of the Textbook Acquisition Form which is found in our new student information system. Please make sure to review this form carefully since requirements for the opt-out option are listed there. For information on how to create your account, update your profile, change your privacy settings, and complete Back-to-School forms, you may click [here](#).

Vaping

Since Wheaton Academy is committed to partnering with parents, we want to make you aware of a recent trend in schools across the country in addition to giving you some information that may equip you for conversations with your children, especially as summer months are approaching and your children will have more down time. Vaping has exploded onto the school scene as a major issue and has left schools scrambling, trying to determine the best response. Some schools are taking drastic measures, limiting students to use of only one bathroom facility and equipping the bathrooms with sensors designed to detect vape smoke. Other schools are working hard to tighten up school policy as school culture reacts to the broader popular culture. Wheaton Academy has a clear policy regarding vaping as outlined in the student handbook, and we are planning to address the student body with the issues surrounding vaping in the fall of our next school year.

The appeal for kids is obvious—vaping is advertised as a “safer” alternative to cigarettes, and vape pens are aesthetically sleek, which gives them a rebellious appeal. JUUL, one of the leading producers of vape and vaping products, designs vape pens that are aesthetic and easy to conceal. Some of them look like a normal USB flash drive, making them virtually undetectable. Though research is still ongoing regarding the long-term effects of vaping, the fact remains that breathing hot chemicals into the lungs is hardly ever advisable. Safer than cigarettes does not mean that vaping is a safe practice. Studies are emerging that demonstrate that those who use vape are far more likely to begin using cigarettes. Additionally, vape is a vehicle for delivering nicotine and THC, the active drug in marijuana. Because many vapes contain high levels of nicotine, the practice becomes quickly addictive.

As we have researched the vaping explosion, one trend in particular has been especially disturbing regarding the way these products are designed and marketed. Initially, vaping was created as a safer alternative to cigarette smoking for those who were trying to quit smoking. Ashley Gould, the chief administrative officer of JUUL has gone on record by claiming, “we don’t want kids using our products....our product is not only not for kids, it’s not for non-nicotine users.” Despite the strong verbal stance, the practice of JUUL does not align with this statement, as vaping companies like JUUL target teen audiences with sleek designs of vape pens and appealing flavors like fruit juice, candy, and cereal (these flavors include honey nut or strawberry melon). The packaging is brightly-colored and meant to appeal to younger audiences. Companies like JUUL will continue to design and market to teen audiences until the FDA regulates vaping more heavily.

As we partner with you as parents, we want to inform and educate you on new trends and temptations that we need to equip our students to stand against. For additional reading on the topic, feel free to click the links below:

<https://schoolleadersnow.weareteachers.com/educators-school-vaping/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/02/health/vaping-ecigarettes-addiction-teen.html>

Next Few Weeks at a Glance

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| May 11 | MTP show 7:00 p.m. Alumni Chapel |
| May 12 | Junior/Senior Formal 7:00 p.m. Gaslite Manor |
| May 18 &19 | Kairos Show 7:00 p.m. Alumni Chapel |
| May 23 | Spring Art Show 6:30 p.m. & Academy Awards 7:00 p.m. FAC |
| May 25 &26 | Advanced Drama Show 7:00 p.m. Alumni Chapel |
| May 28 | No school, offices closed, Memorial Day |
| May 29 | Period 1 Exam 8:00-9:30 a.m., Period 2 Exam 10:00-11:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Senior Luncheon, 1:00 p.m. Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal at Wheaton Bible Church |
| May 30 | Period 3 Exam 8:00-9:30 a.m., Period 4 Exam 10:00-11:30 a.m. |
| May 31 | Period 5 Exam 8:00-9:30 a.m., Period 6 Exam 10:00-11:30 a.m. Book Buyback and Rental Returns 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Commons |
| June 1 | Period 7 Exam 8:00-9:30 a.m., Make-Up Exams 10:00-11:30 a.m. Book Buyback and Rental Returns 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Commons Baccalaureate, 7:00 p.m., FAC |
| June 3 | Graduation Ceremony, 4:00 p.m. Wheaton Bible Church |