

# Parent Newsletter

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

With so much going on at Wheaton Academy, we want to share highlights of the semester thus far and to note events you will want to add to your spring calendar.

## Off-Campus Learning Days

The last week of January was a historic one for the Chicagoland area with record cold and lots of snow. In these situations, our priority is always student safety. Because our students come from various neighborhoods, at times having an Off-Campus Learning Day is necessary. These days are possible because each student has a device that connects to our learning management system, OnCampus. The purpose of these days is to extend our students' learning even when they are not on campus. Realistically, this form of learning may be one that students will encounter in college or graduate school. Additionally, when students have at least five hours of work and instruction, the state of Illinois allows us to count this as a school day and avoid the need to extend school into the summer months. We are grateful for the way our students and faculty handled these days to make the best of our very own polar vortex.

## Winterim 2019 Recap

Winterim not only is one of our school distinctives but also provides our students with innovative learning opportunities all over the world. Knowing that students need to be prepared for a diverse and technologically driven world, we endeavor to give them new experiences, hands-on learning, and an opportunity to study subjects that are not feasible within the course of the "regular" school year. Each student chose to travel, to serve in an internship, or to take classes on campus.

This year:

- 318 students took 42 different classes including Mock Trial, Sign Language, Real Estate, Mixed Martial Arts, Photography, Introduction to Medical School, Aviation, Auto Mechanics, "Make it," Astronomy, Exploring Chicago, and Horsemanship among many others.
- 227 students traveled on fourteen different trip experiences that fit our categories: Leadership Development (Boys' basketball to Washington, DC; Wrestling trip to CO), Faith in Action (Scotland; Israel; Girls' Basketball to DR; Fiji), Educational (Eastern Europe; Washington, D.C.; Italy; Spain), Service and Mission (Guatemala; Haiti; DR), and Adventure (Costa Rica).
- 105 students served in internships: Some of the opportunities included working in the medical field with Northwestern Medical, interning with FONIA, and serving orphans with a non-profit in India, in addition to a variety of other internships in science, business, engineering, and education.

If you have not yet seen our Winterim recap video, you can watch it at this link:

[https://youtu.be/LiSS\\_k0wgsg](https://youtu.be/LiSS_k0wgsg)

Winterim continues to be an excellent opportunity for extending learning outside the classroom in order to develop our students' college readiness traits, to grow them in their faith, and to help students comprehend the vision of Kingdom Community. We want to encourage you and your children who

desire a trip experience to make plans for travel as sophomores and juniors. Then, senior year can be reserved for a vibrant internship experience. These internships can provide a springboard to on-going study along with a variety of other avenues of opportunity as they head to college.

## Kingdom Community

We continue to work on building and maintaining a Kingdom Community. One purpose of Christian education is to help our students learn to love others well and to be able to build the Kingdom of God in their churches, families, and vocations. Building a community where people can engage with, empathize with, and learn from those who have a different background requires that we take time to tell each other our stories. As we learn from one another, Christ uses that understanding to refine and expand our vision for His creation. The focus in February will be Black History Month and Asian Lunar New Year. Students on our Kingdom Community advisory team will help to plan spotlights for Community Time, and our WAtv students will spotlight the stories of black Americans who have shaped our country. Please pray for our students as we seek to learn ways to love one another better and reflect the body of Christ more fully through these times together.

## Upcoming Events

We want to highlight some events that you will want to add to your calendar.

**February:** Junior Leadership Academy—Juniors have the opportunity to attend a three-part leadership training session in preparation for applying to be a member of Project LEAD during their senior year. This training is an essential part of the process to become a senior leader in our Project LEAD program. Students will be challenged to think about leadership, and the application and service components of the process will be explained. Juniors who are interested in participating in Project LEAD should come to either the Tuesday night or Wednesday morning session (they are identical) on February 5/6, 12/13, and 19/20 to be a part of this leadership training.

**March:** Don't miss this year's spring musical performances of *Newsies*. Tickets will go on sale later in February, so watch for details.

This year, on March 4, we will host our annual Curriculum Night. While more details will be shared in the weeks ahead, highlights of the evening will be the Christian College Fair *and* an opportunity to sign up for an individual meeting with a WA Student Services representative to receive information and advice on choosing classes for the 2019-2020 school year. Please do not miss the new Curriculum Guide which is posted at [wheatonacademy.org](http://wheatonacademy.org). You will want to see the amazing new classes that we are offering our students.

**April:** On April 9, we will have our Spring Testing Day for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. Seniors will have another opportunity to serve. On this day, freshmen and sophomores will take the PSAT 10 to give them a picture of their growth and improvement since the October test. This year, our juniors will take the SAT to show their growth. **This test will be administered to all juniors at no additional cost to families and can be used for college admission.** More details will be available soon, but we want you to be aware of this opportunity that Wheaton Academy is providing for our students as we seek to help them achieve at high levels and prepare for college.

*February Focus:*

*Black History Month and  
Asian Lunar New Year*

*Save the Date:*

*PSAT 10/SAT at WA on  
April 9 for all freshmen,  
sophomores, and juniors*