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## In other news

## YEAR 34

Welcome to our 34th year of serving families and providing an education grounded in the truth of Jesus Christ. We are overjoyed that you are a Warrior.

This year's theme and verse are one and the same: "Rise up and stand firm!" (Psalm 20:8). Reverberating throughout the Bible, God's game plan is clear: rise up (offense) and stand firm (defense). In the fear of God, the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, victory is ours.

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## PRAY WITH ME:

"Lord, help us take ground (rise up) and hold ground (stand firm) for Jesus Christ."

**THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR  
BEGINS AUGUST 16th.**

**THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL  
IS A HALF DAY - 11:45  
Dismissal - NO extended care  
on August 16th.**

New Family Orientation -  
August 14th at 4:00pm in the  
HS Commons

**Back to  
School 2011**  
Family Pack, Lunch Info,  
Supply Lists, & More!

## BOARD OF TRUST

Join me in welcoming Mrs. Cara Wade and Mr. William Clark to the LRCA board of trust. In the same breath, join me in thanking Mr. Gene Whisenhunt for nine years of service on the board – the last three as chairman. Gene's faithful leadership leaves a legacy of transformation and strength.



**Cara Wade**



**William Clark**

This year, the baton of board leadership passes to Warrior dad, Stuart Miller. The integrity of our school's mission is at the forefront of Mr. Miller's mind and heart – every day!



Gene Whisenhunt



Stuart Miller

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## WHAT'S NEW?

Grateful for our healthy student retention and annually facing the departure of 110+ graduates, new families are always a blessing from God. This year, we affirmed mission-fit with 125 new families bringing the total number of Warrior families to 841 for 2011-12. A small team of new teachers will be woven into our fabric to fill vacancies caused by missions, maternity, retirement and relocation. Please pray for all of our new Warriors and their families.

As always, summer is abuzz with improvements to make 2011-12 shine like no other year. From decor to new gym floors (from flood damage) to food service to technology, our emphasis is on staying fresh and relevant. A partial inventory of our summer projects includes:

- Valley Services food service and three upgraded kitchens (Thank you, PTF!)
- New maple gym floors in Warrior gym and the EAC gym from a major flood insurance claim

- Elementary and middle school décor – check out the elementary cafeteria; it even smells good.
- Warrior field press box (Thank you, Warrior Club and donors!)
- Band, drama, choral and visual art enhancements (Thank you, Fine Arts Council!)
- Promethean "smart boards" in the middle school (Thank you, PTF!)
- Mac desktops for graphic arts classes (Thank you, Fine Arts Council)
- Baseball and softball field lights (Thank you, Warrior Club and donors!)
- Three new additional defibrillators (one per school division)
- General campus cosmetics including additional high school sidewalk
- Reclamation of practice field grass surface

A growing registry of [institutional improvements since 2007 is located here](#). Did we miss anything?

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## FEEDBACK

Marketing expert and LRCA dad, Jim Karrh, says this: "*You can tell a lot about organizations by the extent to which they engage and learn from their customers and stakeholders.*" (Arkansas Business Journal, June 20, 2011)

Results of our annual mission-effectiveness survey have been thoroughly reviewed by our senior leadership team and an executive summary was given to our board of trust. 15% of our families responded. Comments were especially informative. We are encouraged by the uniform sense that LRCA is effectively fulfilling her mission. Veteran families bear witness to the dramatic transformation in spirit, facility, communication and how those factors have enhanced academics, arts and athletics. Of special note: the dividends of a

strong biblical worldview program, college guidance program, increased individualization, and our nurturing faculty.

Those who responded also pointed out mutual concerns:

- Be more consistent with code enforcement.
- Keep focusing on high quality classroom instruction.
- Keep the curriculum as challenging as possible.
- Keep moving forward in technology for the classroom.

The results marry well with our three year (2011-14) strategic map as we advance along the pathway to preeminence. With you, the board of trust and I are locked on high quality instruction, challenging curriculum, a "glory to God" culture, flexible space, healthy finances and clear communication.

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## EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Last winter I announced the strategic hire of Andrea Trieschmann to assume and advance the duties of Dr. Margo Turner who departed this summer for a season of ministry in Honduras. Mrs. Trieschmann will direct our learner services team and also serve as our resident curriculum specialist, K-12. Her eleven years of experience (including a decade at Pulaski Academy) and her specialization in gifted education will serve our mission well. God is good. We sense a seamless transition between the ground-breaking contribution of Dr.



Turner and the new opportunities for excellence before us. Please join me in welcoming Andrea to LRCA.

Let me proudly recognize the strong Stanford achievement test scores, gr. 1-8. Our 2011 goal was for our class total battery composite scores to reach the seventh stanine. (Seven to nine stanines are the above average range). With one exception (a close call), we achieved our goal. Never satisfied, we press on.

Speaking of curriculum, we are focusing on math mastery this year. Please help us reinforce math facts at home.

Randy Robertson, our IT Director, and the Education Team are researching the best digital learning pathways for our school. Apps, mobility, filtering, curriculum, security, cost and sustainability all play into our plan to be an effective 21st century school. We'll be visiting other schools and testing working models in order to make the best educational decisions for 2012. [Kroger rebates will be applied to LRCA tech via PTF!]

Not satisfied with the quality of food service for our K-12 students, we have taken a big step to contract with Valley Services of Jackson, MS. After a visit to Briarcrest Christian in Memphis, we decided it was time to get serious about food service quality. PTF caught the vision and joined our better food brigade. I applaud PTF's financial support to improve our three kitchens and nutritional value of our daily, hot, fresh meals. Whether EL, MS or HS, we're confident you'll see and taste the difference. Equipment upgrades, professional service and nutritional guidance from PTF will add up to a better lunch experience for kids and staff.



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## Miscellaneous:

- THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS A HALF DAY.
    - 11:45 dismissal.
    - NO extended care on August 16th.
  - Regular afternoon dismissal times have changed.
    - Elementary = 3:05pm.
    - Middle and high school = 3:10pm.
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## ARNOLD'S SUMMER VACATION

Yes, Karen and I took the trip of a lifetime this summer. We explored Israel together and experienced the Bible in 3D. Put it on your bucket list and ask God to make a way. They say no one returns from Israel the same person. We found that to be true for us. May it be true for you.



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## RISE UP!

I mentioned to Hayden Miller, Class of 2011, that our theme this year is "Rise up and stand firm!" Soon off to Baylor, she told me that it was Baylor's theme last year. News to me but I am pleased to learn we are in good company. David Crowder wrote "[Rise Up!](#)" as an anthem for BU. Check it out at iTunes. Need a boost on the way to school? "[Rise Up!](#)" just might do the trick.

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## PRAY

As always, **pray** for our gates! **Pray** that God will guard the gates and watch our coming and going to campus. **Pray** for hearts to be soft and teachable. **Pray** for minds, that they will follow Jesus and grow a biblical worldview for life.

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## END GAME

Before I close, let me reflect back on Commencement 2011. Over 1,250 friends of LRCA packed Immanuel Baptist to witness the advance of 109 seniors into their university years. Dr. Robert Lewis challenged the Class to follow Jesus from a position of strength. All in all, we've never been so proud. Our graduating seniors were accepted into sixty-two colleges and were offered over \$6,970,000 in scholarships. Please add the Class of 2011 and 2012 to your prayer journal. It's not easy being eighteen in America today.



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## In Memory of...

The founder of Walnut Valley Christian Academy, Mr. Bud Hart, entered the Lord's presence with joy on July 14th. He had planned and hoped to address our faculty and staff on August 9th to share memories and vision. We are indebted to the founders of our school. We carry the vision of WVCA forward. His obituary follows:

HART, Rev. Ralph "Bud" 78, of Largo, died Thursday, July 14, 2011. He was born in Aldan, PA and was a graduate of Wheaton College in Wheaton, IL and the Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, TX. He served as Director of Scandaga Bible Conference in Broadalbin, NY, pastor of the Bible Church of Little Rock and was the founder of Little Rock Christian Academy in Little Rock, AR. He also pastored at Suncoast Community Church in Largo. Most recently he taught internationally through Bible Training Center for Pastors. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, Robin Zecca, Holly Smith and Brian; sisters, Mildred Greenwood and Ruth Ann Price and 4 grandchildren. There will be a memorial service at Suncoast Community Church 12855 110th Ave. N in Largo on Saturday July 16 at 2 pm. Reese Funeral Home 391-9954

**Published in the St. Petersburg Times on July 16, 2011**

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