



Seattle Christian Schools

March 8, 2010

Dear Parents,

Each year our middle school students are provided with the opportunity to participate in an interdisciplinary learning experience about the Holocaust. While some of your student's classes have introduced the topic, the majority of the instruction will occur during the month of March. Our focus and essential question for study is this: *As Christians, how can we learn from the mistakes of the past, and therefore, impact the present?* The middle school teaching team wants you to be aware of this special unit of study.

At both the 7th and 8th grade levels, teachers have designed age-appropriate instruction specific to their content areas. In addition, the middle school team has invited a guest speaker with the Washington State Holocaust Education Resource Center to come and share her experience during the Holocaust. Bertie M. was born in Amsterdam, Holland. In January 1943, at the age of 7, Bertie and her mother were ordered out of their home and transported to a theater that was being used as a temporary jail at the time. With the help of the Dutch underground, Bertie was hidden in the home of her step-mother's sister, who was not Jewish. If you would like to learn more about Bertie, you are welcome to attend this event as well on Thursday, April 1, at 1:00 p.m.

The topic of the Holocaust is sensitive. The middle school team approaches their instruction with prayerful consideration of our students. They also demonstrate respect for the eleven million people who lost their lives during the Holocaust and for the remnant who survived to tell their stories. Likewise, it is of utmost importance that our students recognize and practice respectful, honoring behavior throughout the study of the Holocaust.

For your reference, here are some of the materials that will be used in part or whole during the instruction:

Understanding the World of the Jew
Religions of the World – Judaism (film)
The Hiding Place (film)
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas – 7th grade reading
The Devil's Arithmetic (film)
Night – 8th grade reading
Survivors of the Holocaust (film)
Voice of the Martyrs (film)
Echoes and Reflections teaching materials

For more information about the Holocaust:

The Shoah Foundation
<http://college.usc.edu/vhi/>

Washington State Holocaust Education
Resource Center
<http://www.wsherc.org/>

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum
<http://www.ushmm.org/>

If you have any questions, please contact any one of the middle school teachers to learn more about what will be taught in each of your student's classes. At the end of the week, students will learn about present-day discrimination and will be invited to support an interdenominational organization that aids persecuted Christians around the world.

The middle school team and I would appreciate your prayers for students and the teachers as we study the Holocaust together.

Faithfully serving,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephanie Knipp".

Stephanie Knipp
Principal