

## Special Events

Bayshore Christian School has been described as "loving and nurturing", "academically excellent", "unashamedly Christian", and "athletically competitive". We are Lord-led and Christ-centered; our Lower School program is thorough and enriching; our Middle School program is diverse and stimulating; we offer High School students honors, AP, and more dual enrollment classes than many Tampa public and private schools; and our Middle and High School students have the opportunity to participate in a full program of athletics. But, most importantly, at the heart of Bayshore, you'll find faculty, staff, students and parents who have a deep and abiding love for this school, and that's what makes Bayshore so special.

The special events at Bayshore reflect this love, and support the philosophy of our school. In order to understand the core of Bayshore Christian School, it may be helpful to review some of the events that make us who we are.

Grandparents' Day : In the middle of October all grandparents are invited to join us to celebrate Bayshore and their grandchildren. Dozens of volunteers decorate the gymnasium and provide homemade refreshments. Grandparents attend chapel where they have an opportunity to see the talents and faith of their grandchildren in action. And, of course, children and teachers share classroom time so that grandparents have a first-hand look at how their grandchildren are taught and learn. Traditionally, at least 150 grandparents attend, many traveling long distances to share this day. This is a day when grandparents of students, K2 - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, are special and honored, and are shown the love of Bayshore Christian School, and the love of Christ.

Lower School Fall Festival :Our Lower School is festooned with scarecrows, pumpkins, and corn stalks as the youngest students celebrate the fun and beauty of the harvest and the autumn season. The older elementary students and many parent volunteers guide and mentor our little ones as they learn about God's gifts to this world through music, games, hands-on activities, and interactive demonstrations that bring it all to life!

Veterans' Day :We are honored that approximately 30% of our student body are children from military families. These families are faced with deployment, uncertainty, and special situations daily, and they appreciate an environment that is sensitive to their needs and considerate of their unique lifestyle. On Veterans' Day, we take the opportunity to honor these families and to honor and remember our country's veterans. A stage is erected on our "redtop" area and the entire student body gathers. Our students sing, read their award-winning essays, and pray. We recognize our military families personally, and thank them for their service. As you look across the audience, you see dozens in uniform from all the service branches, of all ages, races, and ethnicities. An honor guard from MacDill AFB posts the flags to open the ceremony, and not an eye is dry after we sing "America the Beautiful", and we somberly listen to the notes of "Taps", played by the honor guard, echoing across the campus. It is a time when the phrase "God Bless America!" is alive in word and deed at Bayshore.

Thanksgiving Feast : For the past 33 years, Bayshore has held the most amazing Thanksgiving Feast imaginable! Students in the Lower School prepare all the food except the turkeys, which are donated and roasted by Bayshore families. The menu consists of dressing, green beans, cranberry sauce, fruit and nut cups, corn, mashed potatoes, butter, applesauce, and pumpkin pie - - all made from scratch by our kids! Tables are set up on the "redtop" and students, parents, grandparents, faculty and staff enjoy the feast and celebrate God's bounty!

Spiritual Enrichment Week : Perhaps the most unique event at Bayshore, Spiritual Enrichment Week began in 2011 with the objective of challenging our students to take a closer look at their relationships with God. As our children are increasingly faced with moral and social challenges, we believe that our core values can serve as a road map for Bayshore students. The entire school participates as we schedule special chapels, presentations, community outreach, hands-on activities for the Lower School, and small group sessions for the Upper School. It is a time for exploration and unification, which culminates with a cookout and celebration band on the "redtop" at the end of the week, and renewed commitment throughout the campus.

These events are just a sample of the Bayshore community, parents, teachers, and administration, partnering to enrich the lives of our students, and modeling our mission and our core values. Additionally, the gathering of the entire student body for the National Day of Prayer increases global and community awareness; the Dominican Republic mission trip takes us beyond the borders of our country to face the need and poverty of other nations; our dinner-theatre fundraisers focus on evangelical dramas to demonstrate faith in action; and our Lower School Christmas program and the Upper School talent shows and "open mike" opportunities are showcases for the talent of our students.