

# February Update

**Manhattan:** Coastlands had a busy January! We started 2015 at Manhattan Christian Academy, our largest school of the year, along with 14 college students who sacrificed a week of their Christmas break to join us. This greatly increased the ministry opportunities and was also a lot of fun!

## What they say...

*"I spent an amazing week at Manhattan Christian Academy last week. We got to hang out with some really sweet kids, journal with eighth graders, and learn about Jesus together. I am thankful for the hospitality shown to us by the school, the teachers and students, and those in the community. I am inspired by the hard work of the full-time Coastlands team members and some of the great people living in the community. I am moved by the love the teachers, administrators, and members of the community have for the students and the love many of the students have for each other and for God. All of these give me HOPE!" – Katie Conrad*

*"My favorite part of Spiritual Emphasis Week is being able to openly discuss faith in a school setting and share our personal struggles in order to relate to the students and convey God's power at work in our lives. I absolutely loved being able to return for a second time as the students were overly thrilled to see our team members again, and their excitement motivated me to build as many relationships as possible during the week. As an education major, it was a perfect opportunity to see urban Christian education being done successfully. I learned a lot about being a Christian educator and how to transfer techniques learned at GCC and apply them in an urban setting." – Rachel Johnson*



**"DON'T JUDGE EACH DAY BY THE HARVEST YOU REAP BUT BY THE SEEDS THAT YOU PLANT." – ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**

**Upton Lake:** We finished January by spending 2 weeks (one elementary, one junior high/high school) at Upton Lake Christian School, about ½ hour north of Poughkeepsie, NY. We always value the mentoring relationships between the staff and students there - a significant advantage of a small school. Although the snow significantly impacted the second week, we tried to make the most of the time that we did have!



**Good times in elementary chapel with Miss Cassie**



**Snow day fun!**

## What's next?

February will also be busy. Pam will be speaking this week at the annual Granite State Christian Schools Association Teachers Conference. Later this month several high school students will willingly give up their winter vacations to join us in ministry at Concord Christian Academy and Dayspring Christian Academy. We're very excited to have them! Thanks for all your prayers and support!

### *A Note from Dr. Rick Bonifas, Principal of Manhattan Christian Academy*

"I believe the Spiritual Emphasis Week is something most of the students will remember for life because it is unique and it becomes a special time of the year as it emphasizes the spiritual life and formation in a creative and focused time that impacts our walk with God. My own children remember the spiritual emphasis weeks they had when they were at MCA. Many students stay in contact with Matt and perhaps others, and I believe that this is a form of mentoring and discipleship that helps the students. In Deuteronomy chapter 6 God tells parents to impress upon their children to love the Lord their God with all their heart, mind and strength, and Spiritual Emphasis Week is a concentrated effort by people from outside our school family, who love God, to aid in that Deuteronomy command. The children look forward to SEW because it is fun, different, and impacting. Teachers value it also. Young people face many distractions in the world today and Christian schools need to go above and beyond to help parents impact their children for the Lord. The exposure to adults and young people from the outside who love God and teach his principles during SEW helps the Christian school fulfill its mission."