

FALL 2013

LION'S PRIDE



P R E S T O N W O O D C H R I S T I A N A C A D E M Y







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COVER: PCA 3rd grade students Ian Graham, Catcher Ridings and Mya Williams explore new ways to learn with the iPad®.

Photo by: Terri LaMendola



Larry Taylor, Ph.D.
Head of School

Prestonwood Christian Academy
PCApplus Virtual Academy

LION'S PRIDE

Table of Contents

- 4 From the Head of School
- 5 Zig Ziglar Servant Leadership Award 2014
- 6 **APPLE® FOR EVERYONE** Update
- 8 Prestonwood Christian Academy North
- 10 PCApplus
- 12 Homecoming
- 14 Grandparents Day
- 16 Biblical Worldview Institute
- 18 Head of School Update
- 20 PCA Initiatives
- 28 Faculty Focus
- 30 Academics
- 32 Fine Arts
- 34 Athletics
- 36 The Spirit of PCA
- 38 New Family Focus
- 41 Counter Culture
- 42 Alumni
- 48 Christmas Angels
- 49 Holiday Traditions
- 50 End of Year Giving
- 51 In Closing

From the Head of School

Prestonwood Christian Academy Poised To Receive Its Greatest Gift

In light of being in the middle of a giving campaign, I can only imagine what some of you might be thinking after reading the above title. I wish I was reporting on a major financial gift and trust me, we need a few in order to complete our facility master plan. However, the greatest gift we will soon receive is the priceless gift from parents entrusting us with their most precious asset, the heart of their child. It is enrollment season for private schools, and the Lord willing, we will have hundreds of families going through this process January through March.

A child will spend approximately 16,000 to 20,000 hours in a school, or educational setting, from age five to eighteen. Research supports that a substantial amount of a person's faith, values and worldview is determined during this same time and that teachers play a vital role in this process. This certainly compels us to hire a teacher whose personal worldview and instructional ability fuse the rigor of scholastic excellence with the absolutes and principles from God's Word. This also prompts parents and others to consider who has access to their child's mind and heart.

Is there anything more important than connecting your faith in Jesus Christ to your children? Your grandchildren? The next generation? I believe with deep conviction that the mission of Prestonwood Christian Academy is to be intentional during this finite number of hours when a child's heart is the most impressionable. Developing followers of Christ and sending them into every facet of society as ambassadors depends on how parents, churches and schools steward the hours of a child's pilgrimage.

It is such an honor to oversee a Christian school and to form partnerships with like-minded parents and stakeholders. To our current PCA parents, I sure hope you will be re-enrolling (unless you are parents of seniors!). To our alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents and other stakeholders, I want to encourage you to tell friends and family members about Prestonwood Christian Academy.

And, please prayerfully consider becoming a Sponsor-A-Child financial partner to help families who qualify for tuition assistance. Delinda, my wife, and I are currently fulfilling our PCA Initiatives pledge of which a substantial part is our commitment to financially support our school's tuition assistance program. This Sponsor-A-Child program helped us send our four sons to PCA, and though they have all graduated, we want to help others who desire a Kingdom education for their children or grandchildren.

Indeed, we are poised to form a new set of covenant partnerships for the 2014-15 school year. It is humbling to think that the hours, days and years we spend together will have an eternal impact on the lives of each student, their future family and society as a whole.

Although the enrollment season for the next school-year is upon us, we still have an exciting semester remaining in the 2013-14 school year! Nearly 80 Kindergartners will perform the *Greatest Show on Earth* and sing their way into 1st grade; nearly 90 4th graders will say goodbye to Lower School and begin their four years of Middle School; 117 8th graders will be promoted to Upper School; approximately 600 Upper and Middle School students will soon travel around the globe during our Minimester mission, service and educational trips; and 121 seniors will join our alumni base of over 1,000! It is great to be a Lion — each one is a treasured gift from God!

Warmly,

Larry Taylor



Sondra Saunders

Sondra Saunders

ZIG ZIGLAR

SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

2014

The Zig Ziglar Servant Leadership Award was established in the spring of 2008 with the purpose of encapsulating the legacy of Zig Ziglar by annually naming a recipient who embodies the very essence of his servant leadership. It is a privilege and a responsibility to carry on the legacy of Mr. Ziglar's name and his servant leadership example for generations yet to come. All sponsorships and proceeds from this banquet generate funds for Prestonwood Christian Academy's Sponsor-A-Child program for tuition assistance. These funds directly impact the lives of over 350 students each year. The culture of our PCA community would not be the same without the selfless contribution, sponsorships and donations of our valued friends who share the vision and heart for PCA.

Prestonwood Christian Academy is pleased to announce that **Sondra Saunders** has been named the 2014 recipient of the Zig Ziglar Servant Leadership Award.

Sondra has been a part of the Prestonwood Baptist Church ministry leadership since it was a church plant of Northway Baptist Church. And, until recently, she was the only leader the Children's Ministry had ever known. In September, Sondra transitioned to a new role in the Pastoral Ministry at Prestonwood.

Perhaps no other Children's Minister in the country has touched the lives of as many children as Sondra. In her 34 years in the position, she saw more than 30,000 children come through Prestonwood. "Although she has not known each of them by name, I can tell you that she has had each of them in her heart and in her prayers," said **Pastor Jack Graham**. "She has a never-ending love for our Lord and Savior and for the children she served so well."

Five years ago, Prestonwood dedicated the Saunders Children's Building; the 31,000-square-foot facility includes an area for babies and a place for the Special Needs Ministry. Pastor Graham said Prestonwood has never named a building for anyone and likely never will again.

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, April 10, 2014

7:00 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel
& Conference Center

7600 John Q. Hammons Dr.

Frisco



ZIG ZIGLAR

SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARD

PAST AWARD RECIPIENTS



2013 RECIPIENT
DAN T. CATHY



2012 RECIPIENT
FRANKLIN GRAHAM



2011 RECIPIENT
KENNETH STARR



2010 RECIPIENT
MIKE FECHNER

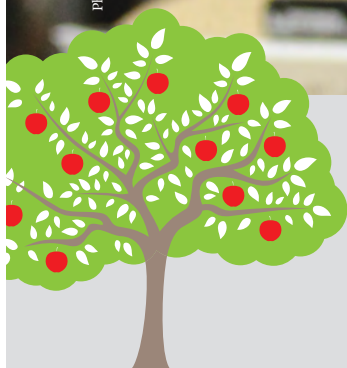


2009 RECIPIENT
MIKE HUCKABEE

APPLE® FOR EVERYONE

Ready, Set, GO!

Photo by: Terri La Mendola



This past summer, PCA's technology team was busy setting up the infrastructure and preparing iPad® mobile devices and MacBook Air® laptop computers to be distributed to all students in 1st through 12th grades. Additionally, preparations were made for shared iPad® mobile devices that are now being used in the Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten classes. As these new devices are incorporated into daily classes, teachers are noting the positive effects of the program.

LOWER SCHOOL

"I am most excited about how accessible this technology is for my 1st graders," said 1st grade teacher **Kimberly Jones**. "It has transformed technology in the classroom because every student can have access at the same time. We no longer have to take turns waiting for the computer, which limited student exposure to great programs. 'One-to-one' has allowed us to do so much more in enhancing our curriculum."

The biggest benefit she has seen in using the new technology this year has been how it compliments and enhances the curriculum. The iPad® offers a multitude of ways to reinforce and extend skills taught in class. It has also been a great tool for differentiating and meeting the needs of students at different levels.

Cherie Borgman's 3rd grade class utilizes the technology to connect with other students around the world. "Each student has an ePal in Uganda, and they love to write and receive letters. After a lesson, we sometimes write a quick summary of what we have learned and share it with our friends in Uganda."

Mrs. Borgman appreciates that the technology is allowing students accessibility that they have never had before. "I can have students working on the same objective but in a slightly different way."

6 | *Lion's Pride* Fall 2013

4th grade teacher **Elizabeth Norris** integrates the technology into core subjects, providing students with multiple choice assessments based on the new technology. "I am most excited about the opportunity for all of my students to accomplish an objective or project at their own pace in their own way, expressing their creativity."

Students have utilized the technology to choose a program to review math, practice spelling and memorize scripture. "Of course one of their favorite things to do is take *selfies*," she said.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Middle School Math Department Chair and teacher **Eric Scott** said, "I've really enjoyed having the iPad® in 6th grade. We use them in math class to work on our highly successful Aleks® math program. The iPad® has also been a great tool when it comes to research."

The biggest benefit he has seen is the convenience and availability our technology provides. "In the past, we utilized a cart with multiple laptops. It was serviceable — but not easy to use. Our new technology provides us with a much more user-friendly option for both student and teacher," said Mr. Scott.

In addition to using the iPad® for Aleks®, students are utilizing various math apps. "They are a fun and engaging way to continue building a solid foundation in mathematics," said Mr. Scott.

In 7th grade science, students use the technology on a daily basis. The first thing the students do when they enter the classroom is log into Blackboard and complete a warm up activity. They can look at the In-Class Assignments section ahead of time and know what to expect for the day. All of the class PowerPoint® presentations can be found on Blackboard, as well as any documents the class will be using.

Practice quizzes, reinforcement activities, lab instructions, journal entries and access to the online textbook can also be found on Blackboard and utilized each day in class. Study guides are now completed online and submitted directly to teachers rather than using paper and pencil, which allows the students to have access to their work at all times without the hassle of losing or misplacing hard copies. “Another benefit has been allowing students who are absent to keep up with class assignments in ‘real-time’ so they do not get behind by being away from the classroom,” said 7th grade science teacher *Tamara Addis*.

“I know this seems like a little thing but I have loved having the opportunity to communicate with the students via email or on the ‘comment’ section on Blackboard after an assessment,” said Middle School geography teacher *Angela Lee*. “It’s so hard to have one-on-one conversations with students during the day, but I can encourage and give feedback in a much more in-depth way when we aren’t confined to the hours of the school,” said Mrs. Lee. This has helped teachers not only with relationships with students — but also in the quality of their work.

UPPER SCHOOL

In Upper School physics and engineering classes, *Dr. David Steen’s* students are using Google® documents to virtually collaborate on an experiment while he keeps an eye on their progress. Students will also be able to each have access to programs that were once only available on an individual basis. “Each of my engineering students will have their own copy of our programming software to design and test their own virtual

instruments. In the past, two or three students had to share copies of this expensive industry software. They have also already been able to have their own copy of AutoCAD® software, which is an industry leader.”

When Upper School Pre-AP and geometry teacher *Lauren Leininger* has to be out, rather than have a substitute teach the material, she has the students watch a video that she posted on Blackboard that teaches the material for the day. Then, students work together in groups to complete activities and practice the material while in class. “Even when I can’t be in the classroom, the learning can continue which is fantastic and very exciting,” said Mrs. Leininger.

Mrs. Leininger plans to use Geometer’s Sketchpad® in the near future, which will allow her to incorporate activities into her lessons. The program allows students to actively explore geometric concepts through constructions and interactive creations of geometric shapes. The students

follow directions to create objects and measure and interact with them, and then make observations and answer questions about the shapes characteristics. “This allows students to discover geometric truths for themselves rather than relying on me to provide the information in a lecture format,” said Mrs. Leininger. “I’m very excited to present new information this way.”

Upper School biology teacher *Melody Gravett* is excited to be utilizing the technology daily in her classroom. “I have really enjoyed having the technology available to do the virtual labs to reinforce concepts learned in class,” she said. “This provides immediate practice material and encourages the students to apply their newly acquired knowledge and prove their mastery.”

Mrs. Gravett plans to use the technology in future classes for genetics and nutrition activities. She is also planning on a pre-lab online dissection to prepare for the oral and practical part of the dissection quizzes.

“I think students having personal laptops is a huge benefit to the science classroom because it allows me to customize assignments for different learners, as well as providing opportunities to access information about topics in the real world and in real time,” said Mrs. Gravett.

“I am most excited about the opportunity for all of my students to accomplish an objective or project at their own pace in their own way, expressing their creativity.”

**4TH GRADE TEACHER,
ELIZABETH NORRIS**



PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY NORTH

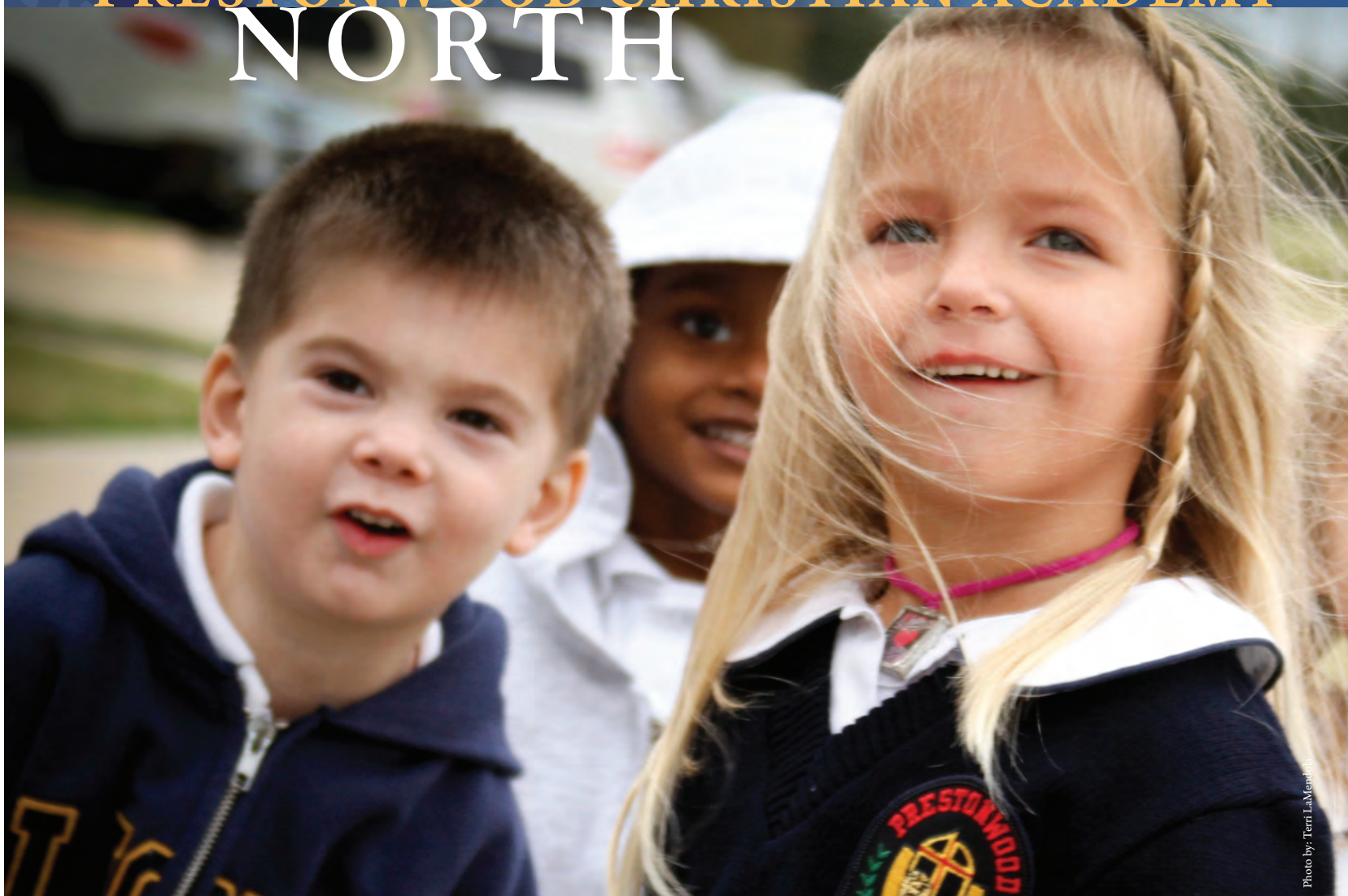


Photo by: Terri LaMendola

The early leaders of Prestonwood Christian Academy knew that there would come a day when the school's touch would need to be extended beyond its Plano campus. Those same early school pioneers included this "extension of our touch" as one of the six goals in the 2006 adopted PCA2020 strategic plan: "Advance PCA locally, regionally and nationally, becoming a replicable institutional model for Kingdom education." This goal was reconfirmed as a "Wall-Strengthening Objective" by the PCA board and leadership in the 2012 published strategic plan, "PCA Initiatives — A Strategic Vision for Prestonwood Christian Academy."



“We are excited to take this step of faith and begin a new school that will provide a Kingdom education...”

DR. LARRY TAYLOR

The first such extension of Prestonwood Christian Academy came with the formation of the PCAplus Virtual Academy. In early October, PCA Head of School, Dr. Larry Taylor, announced the second extension of Prestonwood Christian Academy into the 380Corridor of North Central Texas. Prestonwood Christian Academy North — or “PCA North,” for short — will open in August 2014 for students in Pre-Kindergarten to 4th grade in the recently completed classroom addition of the Prestonwood Baptist Church North Campus at the intersection of Dallas Parkway and Prosper Trail, the future location of PCA North.

The 380 Corridor is one of the fastest growing metropolitan areas of the United States. A recent study indicated that as many as 8,000 new homes will be built by 2018 within three miles of the Prestonwood Baptist Church in Prosper.

“We are excited to take this step of faith and begin a new school that will provide a Kingdom education to children in Prosper, Celina, North Frisco, McKinney, Little Elm and other communities in the U.S. Highway 380 corridor,” said Dr. Larry Taylor, Head of School.

Prestonwood Christian Academy North Campus is a real-life example of our efforts to expand Kingdom education beyond our Plano campus.

Pastor Jack Graham said leaders have been praying for more than two years about expanding PCA. “God led us to the North Campus,” he said. “One day soon, we’re going to see hundreds of boys and girls at PCA North who are growing in their faith and their education and making a difference

in the world. We are here to raise champions for Christ, and we can’t wait to see where the Lord takes us.”

**Not just
what kids can
do...but who
they can be.**

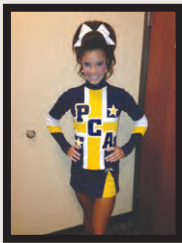


Prestonwood Christian Academy North
972.820.5300
PrestonwoodChristian.org/North

PCApplus

PCApplus brings the experience of Kingdom education to families across North Texas and throughout the United States. PCApplus provides on-campus classes, virtual classes, testing services and many more resources for students and parents. What began as a vision by Dr. Larry Taylor to assist homeschool families, grew into an educational outlet and ministry that also provides resources to public school students and families.

“PCApplus has been a perfect education choice for our daughter, *Katie Kaiser*,” said *Wendy Kaiser*.



Katie is currently on a traveling competitive cheerleading team and spends countless hours at the gym, so a traditional brick-and-mortar school was not her best option.

Students enrolled in the PCApplus program can focus on other activities like dancing, acting missionary work or as in Katie’s case, cheerleading.

Students pace their classes according to their needs, which has been extremely helpful for Katie. “Katie can pace them [her virtual classes] according to her team’s travel schedule, something that a traditional education would not accommodate,” said Mrs. Kaiser.

PCApplus Director *Tifni Lozano* said, “PCApplus offers families the opportunity to ‘do life differently’ while students still receive a rigorous, biblically integrated education.”

PCApplus student and National Merit Commended Scholar, *Hayden Cowart*, appreciates the excellent education he is receiving through the PCApplus and credits his teachers with his success.

“With any class, virtual or brick-and-mortar, the quality depends upon the teachers. I have had excellent teachers: readily available, insightful, and judicious. The courses are well designed and are especially effective when paired with a sincerely interested teacher.”



PCApplus also benefits students who are looking to get ahead. The program has several courses available, which allow students to enhance their studies before they go to college. “Without a doubt, these courses are preparing Katie both academically and spiritually for college,” said Mrs. Kaiser.

PCApplus offers a biblically integrated education that follows the Kingdom education philosophy, something appreciated by parents, such as Katie’s and Hayden’s, to give their children a Christian education. PCApplus families also benefit from resources such as the Biblical Worldview Institute and Summers at Prestonwood, all of which serve to further bless and strengthen the family.

“We would love to see PCApplus reach around the globe and assist families all over the world with their student’s educational needs,” Ms. Lozano said. She is blessed to be part of a program that helps students achieve academic excellence and develop spiritually.

To find out more about PCApplus, visit PCApplus.org.



Factoids about PC*Aplus*

15 On-campus students



105 students took the PLAN and PSAT through PC*Aplus*



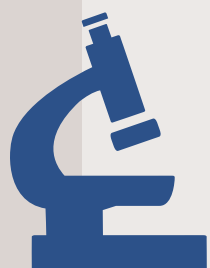
60

Virtual enrollment for 2013-2014



20 middle school virtual classes

53 high school virtual classes



160+

Courses taken during 2012-2013



1
Year

for PC*Aplus* to have a National Merit Commended Scholar



10

Advanced Placement Offerings

77

PCA students have taken virtual courses to fulfill High School credits



5

Average score on AP Language & Composition



Homecoming Queen and King, Laken Ash and Jacob Frears

“One Through The Ages”

During the first week of October, the PCA community joined together to celebrate one of the greatest traditions at PCA — Homecoming. Students dressed up daily to show their enthusiasm, halls and floats were decorated, and votes were cast for Homecoming King and Queen. On Friday, everyone lined the Prestonwood parking lots to view the annual parade. PCA’s biggest fan, *Dr. Jack Graham*, Pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church, kicked off the parade, followed by horses, flag carriers and the traditional lineup of floats, athletic teams, and PCA Leadership.

Then came the annual pep rally in Lions Stadium, where the bleachers shook with cheers and stomps as PCA’s Lions Varsity Football team prepared to take on Bishop Dunne High School. Alumni who had returned were invited to come and join the festivities during the day and were honored with a special reception before the game.

During halftime, 2012 Homecoming King and Queen, *Nate Jones* and *Taylor Cash*, honored this year’s new royalty, Seniors *Jacob Frears*

and *Laken Ash*. To round out the excitement of the day, the PCA Lions defeated Bishop Dunne by a score of 27-21.

What do all of these things have in common? Tradition. What do they also have in common? Change. Although PCA annually hosts Homecoming and we participate in the same events, our students are different, our faculty changes, the football team changes, everything changes as students grow and graduate. One of the greatest blessings at PCA is to see the growth that is spurred on because of the foundation that is built here at PCA.

Homecoming at PCA is one event during the year when community and tradition are truly the focus. We once again invite those who have graduated to come back and become part of the Lion Family. More importantly, we come together to remember that even though we change, we graduate and move on, God never changes. He is our One Constant.

This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations. Exodus 3:15

HOMECOMING COURT 2013

Freshmen Class

Zach Albracht, Emily Chatham, Bethany Dawkins, Amaris Deaton, Caroline Ford, Reed Hoelscher, Bryce Young

Sophomore Class

Ryan Cash, Kimberly Cobb, Carter Gekiere, Dylan Landis, Brigitte Massey, Joshua Salim

Junior Class

Connor Borden, Ben Carter, Grace Colan, Cody Cunningham, Rachel Denniston, Katie Klingstedt

Senior Class

Laken Ash, Amber de Armas, Grace Fechner, Jacob Frears, Ty Herring, Braeden Spivey



Lower School students welcomed to school by Lions Varsity Football Team



Lower School Students line up for the Homecoming parade



The brand new Levi the Lion makes his debut



Assistant Head of School, Operations John Klingstedt, Assistant Head of School, Academics Dana Epperson and Head of School Dr. Larry Taylor join the fun



Lionettes Line up for Homecoming Pep Rally



PCA Alumni Party



Homecoming Football Game



(left to right) Emily Chatham & father, Mr. Gary Chatham, Amaris Deaton & father, Mr. Ray Deaton, Bethany Dawkins & father, Mr. Bill Dawkins, Mrs. Cheryl Landis & son, Dylan Landis and Mrs. Amanda Hoelscher & son, Reed Hoelscher line up on the field for the announcement of Homecoming King and Queen.



PCA Grandparents DAY

Grandparents Day is special at Prestonwood Christian Academy, and how blessed we were to have so many of our grandparents in our midst on Friday, October 18th.

Grandparents from all over the country poured into the school to spend the day with their children and grandchildren. It was a privilege to honor these people so special to us, and to share the heart of Prestonwood Christian Academy with them.

What a wonderful sight to see the light in a small boy's eyes as he warmly greeted his grandparents and introduced them to his teachers and friends ... a sweet grandmother as she walked hand-in-hand with her granddaughter on the way to All School Worship ... a grandfather as he hugged his grandchildren close and lovingly led them in prayer. Our hearts warmed at the sight of a child as he excitedly showed his grandmother the gifts he had made for her ... as teenagers eagerly chatted with their grandfather at the Upper School Reception ... as we honored our heroes who defended our great nation, and our heroes who still defend our freedoms today. In all of this, we caught a glimpse of heaven

from the legacy and wisdom that flowed from these special people that our God has so lovingly placed in our lives ... all during Grandparents Day at PCA.

An unknown author penned the words, "Blessed be the ties that bind generations." We are grateful that many of our grandparents were able to spend the day with us, and we are grateful for the thoughts and prayers from those who were away. We look forward to the day in 2014 when we can echo this time again.

"Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness."

Proverbs 16:31



Thank you

A Letter from a PCA Grandparent

PCA Grandparent Colonel Kim Poole, USMCR (Retired) and now General Manager of KBR Iraq LLC, recently shared his story of how Prestonwood Christian Academy has not only impacted his and his wife Ruthie's grandchildren's lives but also the lives of countless soldiers and people in Iraq.

First, I would like to thank PCA for the amazing help in 2007 during *Operation Iraqi Freedom* — a wonderful blessing during a turning point in the War on Terror. Victory Base in Baghdad was being rocketed and mortared daily by terrorist attacks and many people were hurt.

During this same time, PCA launched its own mission, '**Hearts For Baghdad**,' to ease the suffering in Iraq, and *huge* quantities of school supplies, children's toys, clothing, and infant items were repeatedly shipped to Baghdad. We distributed the care items at the Victory Base Clinic that opened to the general Iraqi public each weekend. Every Saturday the clinic was packed with desperate people seeking help, and we distributed dozens of large boxes of PCA care items weekly. Those donations, given in Christian love, helped turn the tide of local citizens' sentiments and won the hearts of the Iraqi people. Mission accomplished Hearts for Baghdad!

Moreover, let me add that PCA's prayers asking God's favor and protection for our soldiers were answered in a mighty way, and those prayers were treasured immeasurably by all of us. *Ruthie* and I feel personally indebted to all those who prayed for our servicemen and women during those difficult times.

Our son and daughter-in-law are *Chad and Julie Lunsford* and we have four PCA Lions who are precious to us. *Taylor*, our granddaughter, is in 8th grade; among our grandsons, *Walker* is our 6th grader; *Hudson* is in the 2nd grade; and *Mitchell* is in Kindergarten. Ruthie and I feel blessed beyond words that all four of our grandchildren have the benefit of attending such a wonderful Christian school. We have watched them all grow in body, mind, and spirit through PCA athletics, the exemplary curriculum of the school and the Biblical principles that are the foundation of this Godly institution. We are in awe of how PCA prepares Christian young people to succeed in a secular world that sadly prioritizes compromise in many of its worst forms.

PCA has had a tremendous impact on my family and me. We are thankful for what the school stands for but also how PCA puts its values into action. We are grateful for the effect you've had on so many; we are thankful for the impact you have on our grandchildren; and I don't have words adequate to express our appreciation for how you have blessed Ruthie and me personally.

Thank You PCA.

Kim Poole
Colonel, USMCR (Retired)
General Manager – KBR Iraq, LLC
Baghdad, Iraq



“We are in awe of how PCA prepares Christian young people to succeed in a secular world that sadly prioritizes compromise in many of its worst forms.”



Col. and Mrs. Poole with their grandchildren Taylor, Walker, Hudson and Mitchell Lunsford

Pastor Christopher Brooks, Rockie Naser, Justice Raul Gonzalez, Dr. Karen Bradberry, Mike Fechner and Jason "Propaganda" Petty



The Pursuit of Truth



Photo by: Terri LaMendola

"The most noble thing you can do with your life, is pursue Truth," said Pastor Christopher Brooks as he opened the 2013 Biblical Worldview Institute.

"What is truth? Is it the pursuit of knowledge; wisdom? No, according to Jesus, it is the pursuit of Him. In John 14:6, Jesus personifies 'truth' when He says, 'I am the Way the Truth and the Life.'" Pastor Brooks went on to explain that Christianity is the only religion that is truly based on a relationship. "Christianity is the only religion based on a person — the Person of Jesus Christ," he said. He also challenged the audience to pursue truth rationally and relationally. "Christianity is above any other worldview."

"Jesus did what no one else did and offers what no one else offers," said Pastor Brooks. "More than rules and laws, He offers relationship."

Prestonwood Christian Academy also hosted a panel discussion on racial tension in America. The panel included *Christopher Brooks* (Senior Pastor of Evangel Ministries in Detroit), *Jason "Propaganda" Petty* (a spoken word performer), *Rockie Naser* (leader of Refugee Hope and Women's Mobilization of Southern Baptist of Texas

Convention), *Mike Fechner* (President and CEO of H.I.S. BridgeBuilders), *Dr. Karen Bradberry* (Director of Bickel and Brewer's Future Leaders Program) and retired Texas Supreme Court *Justice Raul A. Gonzalez*.

The opening question of whether racism still exists in America prompted Propaganda to answer, "Have we moved past or has the culture past us? The question in itself is flawed. We have progressed, but the question implies the responder isn't educated enough to know. What assumption are you already making when you ask the question?"

According to the panel, racism happens when you don't bring people from other groups to the table. The goal is not to become color blind, but to recognize God's creativity in creating a diverse culture. "I know that people are trying to erase these differences," said Dr. Karen Bradberry.

"I believe that is indifference to what God had planned." Propaganda stated, "You can't order your identity in a certain way — Christian, white, black, Muslim. Christ takes all things about us and redeems us all. Celebrate people's differences and culture."

Mike Fechner reminded everyone that we are children of God and that often younger generations lead older generations to understanding. "Our children are our hope," he said. "Live the Bible, live it out! We get played

when we accept the lies and misleadings of our enemy, and we get taken down if we are too busy standing on the sidelines.”

Dr. Bradberry summed up the discussion with these words, “If you don’t take the time to get to know me, we can’t have a discussion. Look at people through spiritual glasses before speaking and reacting to what is happening around us. Let’s be about our business and do our Father’s work.”

On Friday, *Jada Edwards*, Creative Services Architect for One Church, challenged the students to journey down the path and pursue truth. “What do you allow into your lives, what do you accept about sin, and how much do you know about the truth? Don’t let yourself become too familiar and comfortable with the sin lifestyle,” she said. “The things that we become comfortable with don’t shock us any more. The Bible is saying make sure you are not on that path. There is no way for us to be light in a dark world if we become as dark as the world.”

Rockie Naser spoke on the Middle East, and challenged our audience to broaden its perspective on different cultures and to recognize that as a people, those in and from the Middle East should be treated with love. “The biggest difference between Christianity and Islam is love; there is no word for Allah that means *love*, but there is in Christianity. Avoid fear, generalizing, perception, misconceptions; avoid ethnocentricism. We need to love them ... we need to pray for them, share our stories with them.”

Dr. Michael Lindsay, President of Gordon College, asked students to broaden their horizons in choosing their education and career paths.

He told them the three biggest decisions that they would make in their lives would be: Master, Mate and Mission.

Dr. Lindsay challenged students to realize that leaders often have turning points in their lives that are the direct result of who they are associated with ... so take advantage of opportunities that are presented, as you never know where they might lead. “A leader’s impact is most often felt after they have stepped away,” said Dr. Lindsay.

At the conclusion of BWi, illusionist *Jim Munroe* shared his story of pursuing the truth and how being healed through the bone marrow donation of a 19-year-old girl after contracting a rare form of leukemia, helped him realize the ultimate truth of Jesus. He compared what happened to him to Christ’s transforming sacrifice. “When doctors look at my blood, they see the blood of my donor, the blood of someone else was required to save my life,” said Mr. Monroe.

Mr. Munroe challenged those in the audience not only to pursue truth, but also to live their lives in such a fashion that no one around them could deny what they know as the Truth. “What the world needs is a group of young people so in love with Jesus that everything they do points to Him.”

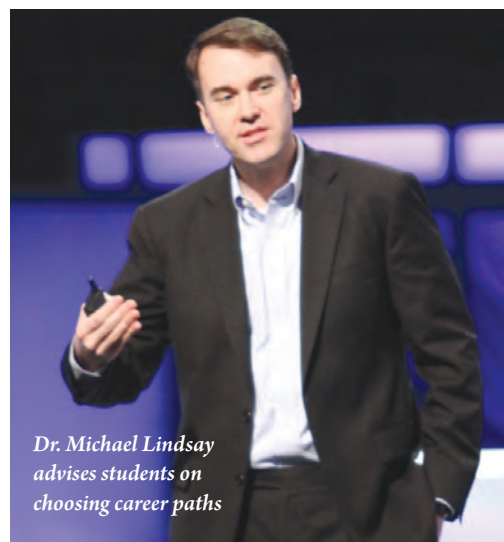
Biblical Worldview Institute brings topics and special guests such as this to students and families so they can engage in critical thinking about the issues taking place in the world today. PCA students are challenged to pursue truth in all things.



*Jada Edwards
challenges
students*



*Illusionist
Jim Munroe
shares his
personal
story*



*Dr. Michael Lindsay
advises students on
choosing career paths*

“What the world needs is a group of young people so in love with Jesus that everything they do points to Him.”

JIM MUNROE

Update from the Head of School

"It is essential that parents play an intentional role in their children's education, which in turn, allows them the support and freedom to pursue excellence."

DR. LARRY TAYLOR, HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dr. Larry Taylor speaks during State of School

State of School is an occasion to address the community, and for representatives from the student body and faculty to share in their experiences at PCA.

STATE OF SCHOOL REVIEW

I was very encouraged by the record attendance at November's State of School. The positive spirit enlivened our faculty, staff and administration. It also affirmed one of the key difference factors of the PCA community — the value our parents place on their child's education and training. I want to review several significant topics shared at this annual stakeholder gathering:

SEXUAL ETHICS & THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

I asked this question in my October 2013, Head of School Report: *Would you want your 7th grade daughter to share a locker room with a boy?* This is not a hypothetical situation in California as a result of new laws legislating that transgender students now have the freedom to select their restroom and locker room. At our State of School, I continued this dialogue further updating you on our review of PCA's Sexual Ethics Policy and supporting documents. Prestonwood Christian Academy's Sexual Ethics Policy:

- Will be founded on unchanging biblical principles
- Will affirm the biblical understanding of sexuality as a gift from God
- Will support the biblical principle and practice of purity in singleness and fidelity in marriage
- Will define marriage as the union of one man and one woman
- Will recognize gender as a part of the goodness of God's creation, predetermined by God and revealed at conception
- Will recognize all sexual conduct outside of the sanctity of marriage, including both hetero and homosexuality, a sin as outlined in Scripture

We fully understand how our position will be taken by many people who regard our convictions as antiquated and judgmental. However, as the cultural standards continue to change and the definition of family and human sexuality is redefined, we will remain faithful to biblical principles and absolutes. This includes demonstrating compassion, grace and love for all people. I am reminded of John 4:1-40, when Jesus offered the woman at the well compassion, forgiveness and eternal life. But, He also confronted her about her five previous husbands and her live-in boyfriend.

We want to replicate this blend of compassion and conviction.



Photo by: Terri LaMendola



“This year’s school theme, ‘Authenticity,’ has had a great effect on my entire class.”

SENIOR
CLAIRE HARPER



“PCA has instilled all five qualities of the Portrait of a PCA Graduate in me.”

SENIOR
JACOB MATHES

HEAD OF SCHOOL & BOARD OF TRUSTEES STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

1 Replicating Kingdom Education

The catalyst for launching our PCA^{plus} and Virtual Academy a few years ago was the strategic plan adopted previously mandating the replication of Kingdom education locally, nationally and internationally. Other objectives fulfilling this directive include our recent announcement of PCA North (a Pre-K through 4th grade Lower School at the Prestonwood Baptist Church campus in Prosper, opening in the fall of 2014) and the possibility of an International Student Program. We will of course be prudent as we explore and advance opportunities. We are navigating through these decisions using a conservative fiscal model, which protects the interests of our existing Plano campus.

2 School Funding Model

Rising costs are affecting all levels of education, forcing every school leader and board of trustees to examine new revenue streams as well as expense-reduction measures. The impact is certainly more acute for our multi-child families. Although we have always been cognizant of accessibility challenges by socioeconomic levels, our primary position has been: pursue excellence, charge what it costs for this excellence, and provide tuition assistance for families who qualify for need. Thus, excellence is not compromised, and PCA does not become a socioeconomic elitist school. We will continue to operate in this manner, while at the same time explore, review and study other educational financial models. We fully understand that what is affordable for one family might not be affordable for another one. Again, this is especially true when dealing with two or more children/tuition payments. The PCA Initiatives endowment goal (\$20 Million by the year 2020) is for this very purpose — to assist families who cannot afford the full tuition. The Zig Ziglar Servant Leadership Award Banquet was also established to raise funds for tuition assistance through Sponsor-A-Child. A special task force has been formed to examine ideas and solutions for this challenging issue.

3 PCA Initiatives

My role, and the charge to our Board of Trustees, is to constantly look at PCA’s horizon. The PCA Initiatives campaign is our school’s Strategic Advancement Plan, serving as our guide. Thank you for recognizing that tuition does not cover all of the expenses. Funding is also needed for major technology upgrades, new playgrounds, expanding facilities and tuition assistance grants. We have funded several of the initiatives, but we are not finished yet.

What do we need to “Finish Strong”?

- \$1.7 million is needed to complete the \$4.5 million Student Life Center (we have outgrown our current space)
- \$250,000 is needed to reach the PCA Fund goal of \$500,000
- \$400,000 is needed to reach our Sponsor-A-Child goal of \$700,000
- \$60,000 is needed for The Tree Fund (sponsor a tree for \$1,000)
- By the year 2020 our endowment goal is \$20 million. Currently, we have \$10.2 million in gifts and bequests; many people are including PCA in their will and/or estate plan. There are many strategies of planned giving that can be donor and institutionally friendly.

For information on how you can help us “Finish Strong” and complete the PCA Initiatives, please contact the Office of Development at 972.820.5045 or development@prestonwoodchristian.org.

A detailed overview of the PCA Initiatives is provided in the special section on the pages 20-25.

WHAT IS NEXT?

Once the Student Life Center is fully funded, we will devote our attention to — the Middle School, expanding our Arts facilities, completing the final phase of the Athletic Complex, and renovating the other playground at the Lower School.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS AWARDS PCA A STEM GRANT

There are more details about our STEM Grant and program in another *Lion’s Pride* [page 31] article, but I wanted to recognize the significance of this grant. PCA’s science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) programs are sometimes not thought of when the school’s liberal arts educational philosophy is being discussed. It is a misnomer to conclude that a liberal arts learning paradigm does not include a strong commitment to the science, math and technological fields, especially at Prestonwood Christian Academy.

We were honored to be recognized by Texas Instruments as a school strategically focused on developing a top rated STEM program. The \$25,000 TI Grant will allow us to purchase several curriculum enhancements for our students learning experience.



“We are humbled by the sheer magnitude and scope of the PCA Initiatives.” DR. LARRY TAYLOR

Our roadmap since 2007 has been the PCA Initiatives, which came about after intensive planning over an 18-month period. Trustees, faculty, administrators and nearly 100 parents brainstormed ways to meet the short-term and long-term needs of PCA, and those efforts produced these priorities:

- 1 Support Today's Needs
- 2 Develop Exceptional Faculty
- 3 Expand Curriculum & Programs
- 4 Ensure Student Accessibility
- 5 Improve Campus Life

“We are humbled by the sheer magnitude and scope of the PCA Initiatives,” says PCA Head of School, *Dr. Larry Taylor*. “There is no doubt that its contents are beyond man’s abilities and comprehension. We continue to present the PCA Initiatives to our community and place the outcome in the hands of God.”

Using God’s Word as a lamp unto our feet and the PCA Initiatives as our roadmap, we are taking new ground in all five areas. The PCA community has committed over \$25 million to the PCA Initiatives. Five initiatives have been completed or are nearing completion; one initiative is almost two-thirds funded; and two initiatives are more than halfway funded. That’s good news for today and generations to come.

The PCA Initiatives | Prestonwood Christian Academy has qualified and quantified the marriage of its philosophy of Kingdom education with a strategic, long-term plan to implement institutional advancement, growth for the PCA family, and perhaps more importantly, stability of PCA for today and generations to come.



The Next Steps



A As we grow together and build the future of PCA, we pray that you will do your part and participate in something so much bigger than any of us could accomplish individually. Your portion of the wall, placed next to your neighbor's piece of the wall, positioned next to another family's portion, expedites the building process and brings us closer to the completion of this legacy of hope.

As we continue on this journey of faith, we'd like each member of the PCA community to take the following steps and P.U.S.H. us forward on this pathway of success:

P.
U.
S.
H.

Pray

Seek God's direction concerning your piece of the wall.

Understand God's Will

No matter the journey, the perfect response is always to understand and then follow God's guidance.

Surrender to His Leading

Once we know God's will and surrender to it, we begin a process that allows God to move in ways we cannot even imagine.

Heed the Call & Follow Through

Faithful execution is the key to success, so don't hesitate in your execution. Now is the time!

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.”

HENRY FORD

Outright gifts and multi-year commitments to the PCA Initiatives may be mailed, directed to the Office of Development at the address of the school, or you may contribute online at PrestonwoodChristian.org/GiveNow.

Blessings on PCA

Support Today's Needs

If the PCA Initiatives act as our roadmap, then your annual giving is the fuel that equips us to continue down the divinely directed roads and embark on new journeys for generations to come. In fact, your annual giving supplies crucial and immediate resources that enable the school to fulfill its mission. Almost \$3 million has been directed to the PCA Fund since July 2008, and we are inching closer to our eight-year strategic goal of \$4.5 million.



Develop Exceptional Faculty

At Prestonwood Christian Academy, we have great faculty — teachers who inspire their students to dream bigger, reach higher, achieve more, and do it all for the glory of God. Our educators lead by example, and our students follow with great enthusiasm. We consider our faculty a precious treasure that needs to be valued and preserved, which is why we continue to invest in our educators through strategic planning in compensation, mentorship programs, professional development and continuing education.

**“The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains. The superior
teacher demonstrates. The great teacher
inspires.” WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD**





Expand Curriculum and Programs

Our quality curriculum is just one of the reasons parents and prospective students choose PCA over other Christian schools, and it's why we are consistently listed as one of the top Christian schools in the nation. Recently, we added new student academic support tools, such as the Upper School Language Lab, and we implemented a new program, Apple® for Everyone. We are equipping our students with strong values and biblical knowledge combined with cutting edge curriculum and timely technology.

“I am amazed at how new technology has elevated instruction and student learning.”

PAIGE DELEON,
LOWER SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL

Ensure Student Accessibility

As Christians, we are called to believe and do the impossible, so allowing tough economic times or unfortunate socio-economic situations to prevent our children from receiving a Christocentric foundation is inexcusable. That's why PCA is following in the footsteps of the first century church, where those who are blessed to be able to give have a vehicle to help those who are unable to do so. Over \$2 million in grants were awarded for the 2012–13 school year, which was only half of the identified need. We want to do more. We need to do more. With your help, we can make a difference.



Improve Campus Life

Learning doesn't just happen in the classrooms and labs at Prestonwood Christian Academy; it happens throughout our campus. In our athletic arenas, students learn the value of teamwork, the importance of discipline and the sacrifices needed to become champions. On our playgrounds, students develop social skills and learn valuable lessons in friendship. On our fine art stages and podiums, students discover the power of creativity and learn more about their individual giftings. You see, by improving campus life, we are actually giving our students more opportunities to grow. That's why we have made campus improvements a high priority.



Lion's Pride Fall 2013 | 23



Time to Arise and Build

Together we have come a long way, but we are not through yet. As we build for the future, it takes each one of us. Every person is responsible for a section of the wall, and large or small — your piece is irreplaceable. Of course, it takes money to accomplish all that is before us, but it's not about the money. It's about putting your piece of the wall into place, and it's about those for whom you are building.

**“Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.”**

HELEN KELLER

Will you join us at the wall and choose to be part of something much bigger than what we can presently see? Here's where we need your help:

REMAINING GOAL

\$500,000 per year

Margin of Excellence — PCA Fund

Established early on, the PCA Fund provides undesignated funds to help cover the cost of education excellence not met by tuition and fees.

REMAINING GOAL

\$700,000 per year

Financial Assistance — Sponsor-A-Child

At its core, Prestonwood Christian Academy is a family that desires to do the impossible — especially when it comes to providing funds so that every one of our children can afford to attend PCA and benefit from a Kingdom education.

REMAINING GOAL

\$1.7 million

New Student Life Center

For some time, we've needed a new facility to serve as the hub for student activity. The new Student Life Center will provide a place for student growth where Bible studies and meetings with advisors will be held, weekly chapel, student assemblies and parent meetings will take place, and much more. Joshua Plaza will sit adjacent to the new Student Life Center, offering a serene, lakeside setting for personal reflection and fellowship for decades to come.

Original Goal: \$4.5 Million

REMAINING GOAL

\$10.2 million

The PCA Endowment

The PCA Endowment is a collection of individual funds established by donors for specific, designated purposes. While the endowment principal grows, the income it generates makes possible the long-term investments necessary to maintain excellence and to seize on opportunities that might otherwise be available.

Original Goal: \$20 Million



Distinctively PCA - Kingdom Parent Institute

Some days parenting can be a thankless task. At other times, it is the most rewarding and fulfilling responsibility, far and away surpassing any title or position the world could imagine. Everyday, however, parenting is an opportunity, a calling, a responsibility, a challenge and a gift.

Prestonwood Christian Academy is honored to partner with Christian parents in their journey to raise godly young men and women, who are grounded in biblical truth and walking in a manner worthy of their calling. PCA is constantly looking for opportunities to encourage parents in this grand endeavor, and we offer various resources on Kingdom Family topics as a means of equipping parents for the task at hand.

2014 Course Dates: Friday, Feb. 7, 14, 21 and 28

LOCATION: Prestonwood Christian Academy Leadership Center, Upper School Campus

TIME: 12:00-1:00 p.m.

COST: \$30 per person (includes lunch and course materials)

Topics include:

- Becoming One in Our Goals and "Curriculum"
- Becoming One in Our Routines, Rituals and Family Practices
- Becoming One in Our Training Practices
- Becoming One in Our Schedule

"For the past 15 years, I've had the privilege of teaching these principles to over 2,000 family units. The difference with this course from most other parent training options is the practical application component. More specifically, you will walk away with a family plan template that will guide you in setting up daily, weekly and annual goals for your family." — Dr. Larry Taylor

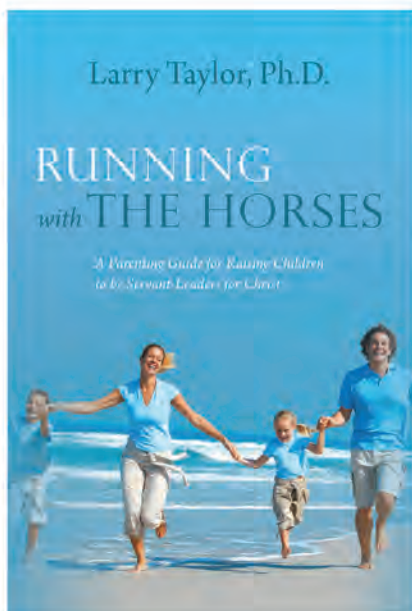
For more information, please call 972.820.5070 or email mcfinkelstein@prestonwoodchristian.org.



RUNNING *with* THE HORSES

*A Parenting Guide for Raising Children
to be Servant-Leaders for Christ*

Larry Taylor, Ph.D.



We all have great intentions when it comes to raising our children. We want them to succeed, and above all to surrender their lives to the lordship of Christ. As a father of four boys and a twenty-five-year veteran of school administration, I understand these goals. I also understand the busyness of daily life—how days merge into weeks as hurried lifestyles spin out of control, leaving us wondering how our toddlers became teenagers. This book introduces you to a simple, biblically based plan for raising servant-leaders for Christ. Whether your child is eighteen months or eighteen years old, this book will guide you through the process of preparation for the race that awaits him/her in this world.

We will walk through specific and practical things you can do to build a family plan. Being deliberate and focusing on creating depth in your child's faith is the first step to preparing him or her to run with the horses—"If you have run with the footmen and they have tired you out, then how can you compete with the horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?" (Jeremiah 12:5)

Get Your Copy Today!

- www.runningwiththehorses.net
- The Hub Spirit Store
- Prestonwood Baptist Church Bookstore
- www.westbowpress.com
- Amazon.com

Soft cover: \$13.99 + \$5 shipping
Hard cover: \$30.99 + \$5 shipping
(TX residents add 8.25% state sales tax)

To book Dr. Taylor for a speaking engagement, please call 972-820-5069 or email Kathy Crabb at kcrabb@prestonwoodchristian.org.

Follow Dr. Taylor on Twitter!


 @larrytaylorpca



Photo by: Terri LaMenola

When Geography Becomes More than Just About a Map

PCA Middle School geography teacher *Angela Lee* has taken the typical geography class and turned it into something that has made an impact not only on her students' lives, but also on the lives of others across the globe.

Mrs. Lee utilizes a program called GeoQuest, where students learn about different people groups, cultures and the like. Students are given a final project to research and identify a problem that is found somewhere around the world such as A.I.D.S, desertification, poverty, spiritual darkness, and so on. The students pray and ask the Lord what they could do to help with the problem. They are then asked to present the problem and their solution to the class as if they were presenting it to the mission board that will be funding the project.

"Many times the students want to know WHY we are learning what is being taught. In geography, we learn about places and people throughout the semester, but WHY? The Great Commission states for us to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel... [Mark 16:15]." The Bible tells us to be the hands and feet of Jesus, but why would we want to go if we don't know the people or the issues that they face. Many times in America, we get into an egocentric mindset, and my goal is to help the students think outside our walls here and have the students explore what THEY can do to use the knowledge that they have and expand it to reach the rest of the world" said Mrs. Lee.

One student decided to help raise funds for special needs children in Mexico by selling her art; another decided to raise funds and collect food for victims of a tsunami; another came up with an easily portable water filter that could be purchased locally and sent to Uganda where there is a need for clean drinking water; and another started a foundation

called Kicks for Kids that helps impoverished children in Kenya. "It's a precious time, and I am always touched by their hearts for the hurting," said Mrs. Lee. During this time, she also reads a chapter of *No Longer A Slumdog* by *K.P. Yohannan*, and utilizes technology to show the students videos depicting life in India.

"After showing the students the videos, they write a response essay, and then we take class time to pray for the ministry and for the people of India," said Mrs. Lee.



Ashley Wilson

After reading the chapter, Lee received an email from one of her students, *Ashley Wilson*, who said, "While I was writing my essay today, my heart was pulled toward this topic because I felt like we underestimate the power of prayer that we have because we are so far away from people in Asia.

I was wondering if I could research this project on a deeper level, then end my project with a prayer for Asia. When Ashley contacted me about her heart being burdened for the people of Asia and her conviction to pray more about people beyond the walls of our physical influence, it was not only a huge blessing to me but also reminded me that we have a mighty weapon against the darkness, and it's called prayer," said Mrs. Lee.

Mrs. Lee hopes that this becomes more than a class project and that it would not only spark a passion for the lost and needy around the world, but also ignite students to use the knowledge and passion to influence the world for Christ. Mrs. Lee's students will never look at geography in the same way — what was once just a dot on a map has now become a nation, people who are loved and prayed for by her 7th grade geography class.



Meet Mr. Carlos Ruiz

Carlos Ruiz is new to Prestonwood Christian Academy this school year. Mr. Ruiz teaches Spanish in the Lower School and coaches varsity football. He is married to *Roberta Ruiz* and father to *Olivia* (3 years old – PK3), *Sophia* (2 years old) and *Stella* (11 months old).

After living 31 years in Boston, his family decided to move to Texas. “My wife’s firm had been asking her to transfer for a couple of years, and we finally said ‘yes.’” They only knew of one person who lived in Texas, and it was a very close friend who lived in the Plano area. “My wife loved the area, so we decided that Plano would be the best place for us to raise our family,” said Ruiz.

As a former teacher and coach in Massachusetts, he wanted to do the same thing here in Texas. He searched for the closest school in the area and found Prestonwood Christian Academy, along with the Plano high schools. “It is amazing to me how the Lord has a plan for everyone, myself included. The first person I formally met in the state of Texas was *Coach Chris Cunningham* — boy was I impressed. The first time I met this wonderful man, he did not ask me about all the State Championships or even about football, but instead, he asked me about my relationship with the Lord. It brought a smile to my face, and right then and there I knew I was at a special place.”

Mr. Ruiz then took a job as a graduate assistant at the University of North Texas, which was a “dream job,” but the Lord was busy working behind the scenes to bring him to PCA.

“I kept a relationship with Coach via email and text and eventually realized that this is where the Lord wants my family and me to be. His leadership, confidence and relationship with the Lord is something that I believe every person should have and strive for and ultimately why I am here at Prestonwood.”

Mr. Ruiz has had a wonderful experience at Prestonwood this year. “I have never been in a place with so many people that feels like a great big family. The Administration is a support system; the faculty is loving, caring and genuine, the parents great and the students are incredible,” he said.

After spending a couple of days with long-time PCA students, Seniors Jordan Lord and Michael Roach, Mr. Ruiz went home and told his wife that their children needed to be at PCA. “She told me ‘We just bought a

new home in Frisco so that our children can be in a great school system.’ After about a five-minute conversation about my conversations with these two students, my wife was convinced our children needed to go to PCA.”

As a parent, he understands that his children are going to not only be raised by himself and his wife but also by all that come in contact with his kids. “I cannot ask for anything better than what PCA gives to our children,” he said. “They [PCA] prepare[s] them for the real world as a Christian and that to me is priceless!”

Mr. Ruiz hopes to be a great example to his children and his students and players of living a Christian life. “I hope to show them the importance of being authentic and not being someone you are not. I hope to get the opportunity to instill in the students the importance of being a part of an active church. I hope to help students understand the importance of having a relationship with the Lord.”



Photo by: Terri LaMendola

academics

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Each year, the nation's juniors seek to qualify for the prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program, sponsored since 1955 by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Of the 1.6 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/MNSQT® Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition this year. Worth noting, each state is only allocated a certain percentage of students who may qualify, which places PCA students in competition against school districts like Plano and Highland Park, as well as other private schools such as ESD, Greenhill, Trinity Christian Academy and John Paul II.

Among the top three percent of this year's national recipients are nine students from Prestonwood Christian Academy. This is quite an achievement, topping the seven that qualified last year, which by national standards is a record in itself.

Roughly three percent of 11th grade students in the nation who take this test, qualify, and of that number only one-third of that number qualify as National Merit Semifinalists. The Semifinalists then compete to qualify for the National Merit Finalists.

"With nine (9) students (3 Semifinalists (top 1% statewide) and 6 Commended (top 3% statewide)) in the PCA Class of 2014 recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Competition, PCA has among the most students receiving National Merit recognition in private schools in the DFW area, except the traditional National Merit private school producers, such as St. Marks, Cistercian, and Hockaday," said PCA Director of College Placement, **Dr. Ron Moss**.

Many of the students who qualified this year have been at PCA for seven years or longer, and their qualification for this award is a positive reflection on the rigorous academic standards set by PCA.

Among the students qualifying, *Carly Boobar* has been at PCA for 13 years; *Nicholas Kinnear*, 13 years; *Travis Klein*, eight years; *Joshua Lee*, three years; *Marina Muenster*, two years; *Jacob Mathes*, 13 years; *Savannah Seilar*, seven years; and *Sam Walsh*, 13 years.

Travis Klein, *Paul Lim* and *Jacob Mathes* have qualified as National Merit Semi-Finalists.

These students join a long list of PCA alumni who also qualified for National Merit and are now impacting the culture in their respective fields.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Here is a look at a few of our PAST PCA NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALIST and COMMENDATION graduates:

- **Seth Adams** (PCA '08) just married PCA Alumni **Karla Preisser**; he graduated USC with a degree in Petroleum Engineering and is now working with Chevron Oil in California
- **Kevin Georgas** (PCA '05) graduated from Baylor University and is now at Duke Divinity School
- **Autumn Hamit** (PCA '07) is now in her third year at Law School at Duke University
- **Kara McKee** (PCA '07) graduated from Princeton University, worked at PIMCO and is now advising Congressman Paul Ryan and the House Budget Committee
- **David Pattillo** (PCA '05) is now studying for his Ph.D. at Notre Dame University



Back Row (left to right):
Nicholas Kinnear, Marina Muenster, Jacob Mathes, Travis Klein, Sam Walsh, Joshua Lee

Front Row (left to right):
Carly Boobar, Savannah Seiler (not pictured, Paul Lim)



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS RECOGNIZES PCA'S STEM PROGRAM WITH A \$25,000 GRANT

Prestonwood Christian Academy was recently awarded a \$25,000 grant from Texas Instruments for its Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program.

The grant has allowed PCA to purchase some additional equipment and programs which further the STEM focus. Middle School will be using new Dlite and ProScope handheld digital microscopes, a new 3D Printer to be used in upper level science courses like engineering. This equipment is compatible with AutoCad® software and WeatherBug Station, which will help in the study of weather science for integration in all divisions.

Texas Instruments employee and PCA grandparent, *Sam Self* said, "Fifty percent of TI foundation grants go toward education. The Focus is on teacher effectiveness preparing them to put rigor in math and science instruction. If you don't have rigor in science and math classes, a student is not prepared to take upper level math and science courses in college."

PCA's STEM curriculum begins in Pre-Kindergarten and continues to mature with students throughout their academic career. Lower School and Middle School students study science and math in their everyday curriculum. They use tools including Envision Math, FASTT math diagnostic math program and Delta Science kits. They also participate in several enrichment programs including:

- High Touch/High Tech Science Field Trips which provide Lower School students with hands-on experience within the field of science
- Invention Convention and Tool Time with Dad to support 3rd grade's Simple Machines Unit in Science and Industrial Revolution Unit in History
- ACSI Math Olympics Competitions, where 63% of PCA students participating placed in the top five percent of their grade compared to other large Christian schools
- 7th grade Marine Science program where students care for marine organisms and record their observations and make connections to daily life as part of their Life Science study

- Winston Science Competitions, which are an alternative to a traditional school fair, where students compete across the area in projects like suspension bridge building, root beer brewing and creating an Eiffel Tower
- Destination Imagination Competitions where students work with a coach to create and present unique solutions to challenges
- Future Problem Solvers (FPS), a local, state and international competition where students work to create solutions to problems in a timed competition
- Technology lab electives where students utilize iPad® apps to work on computer programming, animation and digital graphics
- Lego® WeDo kits are used with younger students while EV3 robotic kits are used in 4th through 6th grades

"I am incredibly excited about how this grant is going to equip us to strengthen the STEM program at PCA in all three divisions."

DR. DAVID STEEN

Upper School students have options to study science and math at regular, Pre-AP and AP levels. These include AB and BC Calculus, AP Physics, AP Chemistry and AP Biology.

Upper School Enrichment opportunities include FPS, Technology Electives in Computer Applications, Web Design, Desktop Publishing, Digital Graphics and Video Technology. All students are required to complete one year of study in an Engineering Physics elective course, Future Doctors Club or the Investment Club.

"I am incredibly excited about how this grant is going to equip us to strengthen the STEM program at PCA in all three divisions. Many students are often naturally interested, inquisitive, and gifted in these disciplines, and these resources will help us to foster those inclinations at all levels of development," said PCA Upper School Science Chair and Physics and Engineering Teacher, *Dr. David Steen*. "Specifically, I am looking forward to securing a 3D printer to be used in conjunction with our computer design software. Up to this point, my engineering students have been restricted to making cardboard or paper mock-ups of cell phone cases and organization tools that they designed. With the printer, we will be able to produce working prototypes of the students' ingenious ideas!"

TI's generous grant allows PCA to have access to tools that will help capture students' interest and imagination.

Lion's Pride Fall 2013 | 31

fine arts



Robin Hood

PCA Fine Arts celebrated a milestone this year with its 25th production, *Robin Hood*.

“This was not your standard play. Not only did we adapt it to the Steampunk genre but it contained seven big scenes of stage combat,” said **Pam Hurt**, Head PCA Theatre Teacher.

The students worked hard on their combat skills under the direction of combat choreographer, **Sean Stewart Stevens** for the eight weeks leading up to opening night. “It was exciting to see them rise to the additional challenges in the fall production this year,” said Ms. Hurt.

32 | *Lion's Pride* Fall 2013

International Thespian Society

The Texas Thespian State Festival was held in Dallas for the first time at the Omni Hotel and Convention Center on November 21-23, 2013. PCA's Upper School ITS Troupe 6605 had four events qualify for the National competition in June: Monologue – **Madison Holmes**; Duet Acting – **Jacob Buttry** and **Lauren Oney**; Solo Musical – **Mikaela Liles**; Group Musical – led by **Kendall Brewer** with **Connor Borden, Kristin Carroll, Ben Carter, Catherine Ellington, Katelyn Fietz, Chelsea Irvin, Maison Kelly, Chandler Pennington, Paige Price, Madeline Sappington, Tanner Scheef, Meghan Sherman, Braeden Spivey, Kendall Thorn** and **Maitlan Wade**.

Other competitors with excellent marks were **Katie King, Sabrina Simpson, Michael Walsh** and **Eric Weiss** in Group Acting. Three of the events — Monologue, Duet Acting and Group Musical — were also state finalists with the top scores in the state. **Jacob Inman** premiered his short film, *Pacemaker*, at the festival as well.

Our Middle School Junior ITS Troupe 88975 also competed at the festival against other middle schools from around the state of Texas. Our middle school troupe had four events qualify for Nationals as well with Monologue – **Avery Rudd**; Duet Acting – **Timothy Crisp** and **Mollie-Claire Matthews**; Group Acting – **Lauren Bridgeman, Logan Doyle, Jordi Gile, Madison Meadows, Mackenzie Meadows, Reece Moore** and **Adam Worrell**; Solo Musical – **Tenna MaKaye Porter**.

PCA competes primarily against 4A and 5A public schools at ITS competitions. **Chandler Pennington**, senior, also served on the Student State Board in the planning of this year's festival.

TPSMEA All-State Choir

Every year, PCA Upper School choir students audition for the TPSMEA All-State choir. Through two rounds of auditions (Region and State), we had many great successes this year.

ALL-REGION TREBLE CHOIR

Chelsea Irvin, Audrey Loyola, Bonnie Ryan,
Maitlan Wade

ALL-REGION MIXED CHOIR

- SOPRANO
Rebecca Birkenmeier, Mikaela Liles,
Madeline Sappington

- ALTO
Kendall Brewer, Madison Holmes,
Kourtney Jones, Skylar Ruley, Meghan
Sherman (ranked #1 in Region)

- TENOR
Tyler Brockelman, Dylan Freeman,
Ty Herring

- BASS
Dylan Landis, Jared Stover

ALL-STATE CHOIR

- SOPRANO
Rebecca Birkenmeier, Mikaela Liles
(ranked #5 in State out of over 260 singers)

- ALTO
Meghan Sherman

- TENOR
Dylan Freeman, Ty Herring



The Upper School Choir and Band performed their annual Christmas concerts at Northpark Mall.

athletics

THE MIGHTY LIONS FINISH STRONG AS TAPPS DIVISION I STATE RUNNER-UP

As the season began in August, the *Texas Football Magazine*, as well as the majority of coaches' polls, had the Lions picked to finish as low as 5th in the district. This season, however, ended in a more exciting fashion than anyone could have imagined and stronger than the critics ever believed. Ending the season as district champs, the Lions sailed through the playoffs, making it to the state championship game where they fell just short to Nolan Catholic High School with a final score of 24-21. When asked about the season, *Coach Chris Cunningham* sums it up with these words:

"Our 2013 season is one of the best seasons PCA has ever had, and although we came up short on winning the State Championship, an undefeated district championship, regional championship, and State semifinal championship are accomplishments our young men can be proud of. Above that, however, this 2013 team became everything I believe God created it to be. The leadership and brotherhood that formed through the experiences of this season has had a life-changing impact on each of us that will last far beyond this year. As a coach, I have never been prouder of a team!"



LADY LIONS PROVE CRITICS WRONG!

The Varsity Volleyball Team made it back to the Final Four this year, which was comprised of four Dallas teams. The Lady Lions finished the season with a 30-5 record and surprised many people in the district with their outstanding play.

Senior *Haley Wolken* says of the season, "Being a senior made this season such a memorable experience for me. I am so proud of how our team worked hard to become one of the best teams in the state. Although it was disappointing to lose in the semi-finals, I'll never forget the incredible memories made with these girls!"

SIGNINGS

Senior *Ashley Morgan* signed with the University of Mississippi for volleyball. Senior *Libby Collins* signed with Oklahoma State University with an equestrian scholarship.



COACHES CORNER

What Winter Coaches are Saying ...



CROSS COUNTRY WRAPS UP ANOTHER SEASON!

The Cross Country team wrapped up its season at the TAPPS State Cross Country Meet in Waco in late October. Each runner finished with his/her personal best for the season at the state meet! Special thanks to our seniors, *Grayson Burchard*, *Savannah Seiler* and *Tyler Strother* who completed a four-year career in cross country.

COACH MIKE MAACK WINS GOLD AT IBAF WORLD CUP

Prestonwood Christian Academy's Head Baseball Coach, *Mike Maack*, was selected as the Pitching Coach for Team USA Baseball's 2013 National 18U Team.

Forty players from all over the United States competed in tryouts during the month of August in Los Angeles for roster spots. The coaching staff narrowed the roster down to the top 20 players who would go to the World Cup Championship tournament in Taiwan.



The IBAF (International Baseball Federation) Team USA 18U won the Gold Medal Game in the World Cup played on Sunday, September 8, at Intercontinental Stadium, in Taichung, Taiwan. Team USA just edged out Japan 3-2 in a thrilling Gold Medal Game and successfully defended their title from last year.

BOYS' BASKETBALL: COACH CHRIS LOVELL

"The PCA Lions Varsity Basketball Team is very excited about the 2013-14 season. We have a young and very talented group of players returning from last year's State Championship team. We added some incredible new players to the team. We are looking forward to defending our title."

GIRLS' BASKETBALL: COACH SHERRY OLLISON

"The girls' basketball program is in the 'Year of the New' — with new staff, new team and the opportunity to play some new teams. Several returning players create the base of great things to come. We are excited for the opportunity to glorify Him in the game of basketball."

BOYS' SOCCER: COACH TODD O'NEAL

"We are looking forward to a great year on the pitch for the 2013-14 season. The Lion's side is adding a few impactful young players to a highly experienced group of 18 Seniors. Once again, the team is looking to grow not only in their knowledge of the beautiful game, but in their relationship with each other and our Savior."

GIRLS' SOCCER: COACH AMANDA FOX

"Lady Lions Soccer is excited about what God has in store for them this 2013-2014 season. The Lady Lions have a relatively young team with nine Freshmen and four Sophomores. With many changes happening in the program, expectations are high as we train daily to be champions on and off the field!"

SWIMMING: COACH PERON JONES

"The Senior Class of the PCA swim team has etched its name on the school individual record books. We are looking to surpass last year's finishes at State in both boys and girls competitions. The 2013-14 season has the makings of the best ever for PCA!"

the spirit of pca



PCA Homecoming Pep Rally



Lower School Playground Ribbon Cutting



Lower School boys work with new Apple® For Everyone technology



PCA First Day of School



See You at the Pole



36 | Lions Pride Fall 2013
Upper School Students Leave for Retreat



Cowboy Story Time at Lower School



Family Prayer Time during All School Worship at Back to School Day



Continental Congress



Donuts with Dad



PCA Lower School Celebrates Veterans Day



Duck Dynasty Day



Lower School Choir Sings During Grandparents Day

THE HUB HAS ARRIVED!

The Hub Spirit Store has come a long way from its early days in a closet of the Lower School!

This past summer, The Hub Spirit Store moved once again from the Upper School atrium to a storefront just inside the Field House.

We now have a walk-in store with numerous apparel and accessory options for members of our community to share your Lion pride!

The Hub is staffed by a team of committed, friendly PCA volunteers who can show off our bestsellers, and answer any questions that may arise. Come visit The Hub during our regular store hours, Monday and Wednesday, 8-10 a.m., and Friday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. You can also shop on our brand new website at www.thehubonline.org where we also have gift certificates available.

Merchandise ordered from the website will be available for pickup in the Leadership Center Reception area.

If you need any additional information, please contact **Pam Thorn** at pthorn@prestonwoodchristian.org.





new PCA FAMILY

The Harrell Family

Hannah Harrell has seen her share of moving trucks and new schools.

“As a ‘broadcast’ family, we have made a few moves with my dad’s job,” she said. But the warm welcome she received since moving to Prestonwood Christian Academy in August has made this move a positive one. “One of my greatest life experiences, and certainly the most wonderful experience I have ever had moving schools!” she said.

Hannah lives in a fun family of five, “plus two kitty cats and one seriously cute doggie.” She is new to Prestonwood Christian Academy this year as a Senior. Her parents are *Dalaina and Byron* and she has a 19 year-old brother *Nathan*, and 10 year-old little sister, *Ella Jane*. Hanna’s mom is a stay at home working mother and her father is the Director, Music Programming at CBS Radio Division, Dallas.

“One of my greatest life experiences, and certainly the most wonderful experience I have ever had moving schools!”

“My father moved to Dallas ahead of our family in September 2012. We followed my father in August of 2013. My brother, Nathan, who lives with both the gift and challenges of autism, was in his senior year of high school in Michigan and graduated in June of 2013!” Hannah moved the day before the seniors left for Sky Ranch and the San Antonio trip.

She found the students and teachers incredibly accepting and easy to connect with. “As scared as I was, after the Senior retreat I wasn’t as nervous to go into my first day of school,” she said. “The students and faculty were very patient as I was trying to learn and absorb all the new schedules and school regulations. Everyone was so kind, and I found it very comforting to be part of a school family that cared for new students as much as they did.”

What surprised her the most about the school was the support her family received when her mom became seriously ill and went into the hospital in early September. “Not only did the school and the church create a meal list and prayer list, they came to me and asked me about how I was feeling and how I was dealing with my mom’s sudden illness and all the emotions surrounding our move. They cared about my mom of course, but they genuinely also cared about MY heart and how the rest of my family was feeling.”

Hannah experienced the love and compassion of the PCA community as her family was cared for in a way she had not experienced before in a school setting. “Many words of encouragement really helped me cope with having just moved into a house and having my mom go into the hospital. I don’t think I have ever had a stronger support group that had my back in a time of need. I was so new, and people hardly knew me, yet my senior class, and all my teachers were praying for me and asking about me and my family’s mental/emotional/physical needs,” she said.

“I can claim with confidence that PCA scooped up my family and poured love over all of us! It was truly a gift from God to have been placed in the hands of these amazing people at PCA, and I will ALWAYS be grateful.” Hannah has thoroughly enjoyed her experience at PCA this year. I can’t even begin to start about what I enjoy the most about PCA. I love it all,” she said. Hannah deeply appreciates that PCA is a faith based and a nurturing Christian environment.

Even though she is in her last year at PCA, with the encouragement of some good friends, she decided to try out for the soccer team. “I love my soccer family and our new coach, Amanda Fox. It’s a blast and has given me an opportunity to get to know some other girls besides seniors.”

Hannah has also formed some special relationships with her teachers. “All the teachers I have this year are incredible and if I were asked who my favorite is, I wouldn’t be able to tell you because I love them all!”



“When I came to PCA and heard about the mission trip opportunities I was ecstatic!”

PCA is also providing Hannah the opportunity to fulfill a life long dream of participating in an overseas mission trip. “Ever since I was little, I always dreamed about the idea of going to Africa on a mission trip. The church I attended in Michigan used to go to Brazil every year for a mission trip. The year I was old enough to go, the Church decided they couldn’t fund the trip any more. I was devastated and so sad that I lost the opportunity to go on an overseas mission trip.

Through the years, Africa kept coming up in my life. I babysat for a family in Michigan who adopted a child from Africa. Many family friends decided to move to Africa for long periods of times and work in the mission field there. My love for missions and the opportunity to experience the people and culture of Africa grew stronger. When I came to PCA and heard about the mission trip opportunities I was ecstatic! And Africa was one of them!”

Hannah ran to her parents and asked their permission to sign up. “I am so beyond thrilled and blessed to be able to go on this trip and it can’t come soon enough,” she said.

Hannah and her family are proud new members of the LION community, and hope to encourage others to come to PCA. “I would passionately encourage families to visit PCA for sure. This school is absolutely phenomenal and I am so proud to be a student here. The teachers and faculty at the school are genuine. PCA is the greatest and new families are celebrated and welcomed at the school!”

Worship with Us This Weekend

There's a Place for YOU at Prestonwood!



Plano Campus

6801 W. Park Blvd., Plano, TX 75093

Saturday Service 5:00 p.m.

Sunday Services 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Prestonwood En Español 2:00 p.m.

North Campus

1001 W. Prosper Trail, Prosper, TX 75078

Sunday Services 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

Dallas Campus

12123 Hillcrest Road, Dallas, TX 75230

Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.

 **Prestonwood**
BAPTIST CHURCH

972-820-5000 | prestonwood.org



Dr. Jack Graham
Pastor



THINKING CRITICALLY

Coming off another incredible Biblical Worldview Institute (our best one ever!), I was thinking about just how incredible it is that Prestonwood Christian Academy tackles the tough issues and helps our students think critically and Christianly about the world around them. Ironically, at the same time I was reading a book by best-selling author, blogger, and entrepreneur **Seth Godin** called *Linchpin*. In this book, Godin argues that the world is changing from a factory mentality to a more creative concept, but he is concerned that our schools are lagging dreadfully behind in producing capable thinkers for this new market.

In *Linchpin*, Godin writes these words:

“It’s almost impossible to imagine a school with a sign that said: ‘We teach people to take initiative and become remarkable artists, to question the status quo and to interact with transparency...’”

While that isn’t exactly our mission here at PCA, I do believe you could hang that sign here with confidence. We are teaching our students to take initiative, to think critically, to question the status quo and to prayerfully consider what role God has for them to play in His grand redemptive plan. The subtitle for *Linchpin* is this: “Are You Indispensable?” What a great question for Christians today considering that God’s plan includes using His followers to make Himself known to a dark and dying world!

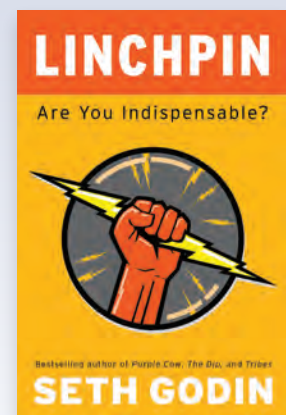
**Prestonwood
Christian Academy
tackles the tough
issues and
helps students
think critically.**

As “Christ’s ambassadors,” Christians truly play an indispensable role for the Kingdom.

Puritan author **Isaac Ambrose** may have said it best when he wrote: “Soldiers of Christ, be aware that you are highly advanced in God’s creation, that you occupy an important station, that you have arduous work allotted to you, and you have neither time nor talent to throw away. For you are enlisted under the banner of Christ; you have entered the armies of the Most High, have taken an oath of allegiance to the King of Zion, and bound yourselves by an oath to fight the good fight of faith against sin, Satan, the world, and the flesh.”

PCA is preparing students not only for “success” in the boardroom but beyond as well. We want our students to be truly “indispensable” because of their character, work ethic, leadership skills, and Christ-likeness. I am thankful for a school that keeps an eternal perspective in mind as they prepare students for this world ... and the next!

Linchpin: Are You Indispensable?
by Seth Godin



alumni

Prestonwood Christian Academy Alumni Making an Impact on Law

Several Prestonwood Christian Academy alumni have chosen to go into the legal profession, and having found the desire to pursue a career in Law, are spreading Christ's light into the world and making an impact on their surrounding communities.



Alex McGee, (PCA '04) currently attending Boston College Law School and pursuing a career in business law said, "In general, I hope to be a positive light in an otherwise very dark profession. In New England, it is very rare to find Christian lawyers. It is even more rare to find Christian lawyers working in the business

world. I hope to minister no matter where God places me by showing others a different definition of what it means to live — not just to focus on success but to focus on caring about others and ultimately God's Kingdom."

After graduation McGee will be clerking for a bankruptcy judge in southern Georgia and afterwards hopes to return to Boston and pursue a career as a corporate business lawyer with a potential focus on commercial law and/or business bankruptcy/restructuring.



Carrie Thomas, (PCA '07) currently attending Southern Methodist University Law School, came into law school planning on pursuing some type of corporate transactional law. "However, after my internships last summer, I have decided to pursue a career in trial advocacy. I plan to start my career in a District Attorney's office.

In particular, I would like to work for a child abuse specialty division.

This semester, I interned at the Dallas County District Attorney Child Abuse Division, and God showed me that this is a field I am absolutely meant to practice in, even if for a short time. As a society (particularly in Plano, North Dallas, etc.), we find it easy to overlook some unimaginable

evils that are happening right under our noses. Child abuse prosecutors are overwhelmed with the growing number of cases they face, and there is a serious need for attorneys in this area to protect the most vulnerable members of our society." Carrie also plans to practice in private family law. During a judicial internship, she saw some horribly messy family law cases go to trial, many of which involved attorneys who were motivated by money or power rather than advocating for the best interests of their client and their client's children. "God revealed to me the dire need for compassionate Christian attorneys in this area," she said.



Danny Nappier, (PCA '08) said, "I am currently enrolled in courses that lend themselves toward a career in Corporate and Securities Transactional work. This is the kind of lawyering that does not take place in a courtroom but takes place through negotiating big business deals etc. Ever since I discussed with alumni what transactional work [is] (also called 'deals lawyering') I believed that this was the kind of thing that suits my personality."

Nappier knows that working as an attorney, especially in his chosen field can be viewed as something other than positive. "Many believe 'Christian lawyer' is an oxymoron. I was fortunate to meet a Christian lawyer in college who explained to me his desire to be an attorney in this way: When we appear before God at death, Jesus is our advocate for why we should enter heaven. In the same way, Danny wants to be an advocate for people when they cannot speak for themselves or do not and cannot know what to say. It is a form of striving to be like Christ so long as it is pursued in a Christ-like manner."



He also recognizes that Prestonwood Christian Academy not only helps prepare these students to tackle the tough issues but also gives them the proper academic and moral training ground to successfully integrate into the profession.

“There are many ways, both in a practical and a faith-building sense,” said Nappier. “Practically speaking, the opportunity to gain significant credit through AP courses was a huge blessing that I did not fully comprehend while doing it. It taught me that learning involves more than just attending class. It requires outside work and study, and oftentimes a significant amount.

Had I not learned this early, my college career would have been very different which would, undoubtedly, have affected the Law School I attended. In a faith-building sense, being around a group of Christian teachers and students enabled me to learn the value of praying for others and asking for prayer for yourself. Also, it’s amazing how much you know about your faith after graduating PCA.

You don’t often realize it until it is challenged. In law school, however, I am challenged in my faith quite often. Many are very outspoken about whatever their beliefs on a particular issue may be. Our law today was formed by law underscored by a very religious group of original settlers to this country. It was formed on principles of morality and natural law. These underlying principles are ones I understood by nature of a Christian surrounding at PCA; why we believe one thing is wrong and another thing is right. It is in these conversations that I realize just how much I learned about faith at PCA.”



Christine Tang, (PCA '08) who is currently pursuing a Law degree in Constitutional and real-estate law at SMU, credits PCA with helping her realize her dreams and giving her the setting to grow and achieve them. “PCA helped me realize that so much existed far beyond my own little world; it helped me reach beyond myself and seek the Lord’s purpose for my life. PCA’s staff, teachers, curriculum, and commitment to Kingdom education helped inspire me to pursue law school so I could become better equipped to serve Him and those in need. At PCA, the staff truly takes the time to faithfully invest in their students, to patiently mentor them, and to believe in them, and that made all the difference in the world.”



Bryce Hopson, (PCA '05) currently working as a law clerk for a Texas court of appeals judge in Fort Worth, hopes to pursue civil litigation and appellate work after finishing his clerkship. He knows that by pursuing a legal career, he and his fellow PCA alumni are helping ensure that there are Christian attorney’s with not only their client’s best interest at heart, but also a commitment to make sure that the profession is maintained with the moral high ground and responsibility they have been tasked with upholding.

“The legal community is in need of more men of character. It is my hope that I can reflect Christ and His love in my work no matter where I am or what I am doing,” he said. “I hope to be a lawyer who loves his family, loves his work, loves God, and shares that love with others around him.”

alumni

Prestonwood Christian Academy Alumni and where they are today

CLASS OF 2002

Erin Lichty Nelson works as a dietician at Whole Foods in Albuquerque. She and her husband, Jon, welcomed their first child, Landry William, into their family on October 15th.

CLASS OF 2003

Brian Pattillo works for TWG Insurance and was the first inductee to the TWG President's Club for his record as the highest producing salesperson in the company. He and his wife, Taylor, have one son named Tyler.

CLASS OF 2005

Clayton Dysart and his wife, Kristin, are proud Lion parents as their son, Caleb, began Kindergarten this year at PCA. The Dysarts have another son, Zachary, who just turned one year old.

Bryce Hopson and his wife, Ashley, welcomed their first son, Cooper James, into their family last May.

David Pattillo is a doctoral student at The University of Notre Dame working toward his Ph.D. in Philosophy.

CLASS OF 2006



Jennifer Jeffcoat Amburn is a Dallas Cowboy Cheerleader and dance and fitness instructor at Pure

Barre in Plano. She is married to Tyler Amburn.



Alex Paulette Bellamy currently serves as the Junior Varsity Cheerleading Coach at PCA. Alex and her husband, Nick, have

one son named Cade and are expecting another child in April.

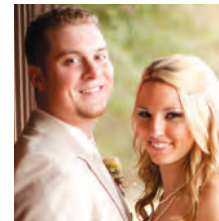
Erik Lichty is an Associate Wealth Management Advisor with Northwestern Mutual in Addison. He and his wife, Sara, were married on August 10th and live in Lewisville.

CLASS OF 2007

Christina Johnson is an associate producer, writer, and researcher for AMS Pictures, producing documentaries and television shows for HGTV, the Food Network, Reelz and KERA. She has also worked in the Story Development departments of Walt Disney Studios, The Kennedy/Marshall Company, and Lucasfilm, LTD.

Bobby Paulk works as an account executive for Mercury Communications. He recently graduated with honors from Texas Tech University.

Caroline Clark Russell is a national marketing director with Nerium International. She was wed to Brent Russell last February and lives in Jonesboro, AR, where Brent serves as a college pastor.



Jordan Clark Sparling is an IT recruiter for Digital Intelligence Systems in Plano. She was married to Kade Sparling in October.



Jenna Paulette Stammen is a country singer and songwriter and is currently managed by Periscope Music Group. She

lives in Austin with her husband, Timothy.

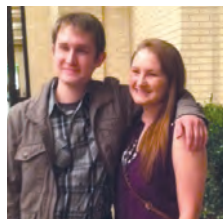
CLASS OF 2008

Matt Dysart is a teaching assistant and site director for an after school tutoring program for at-risk students in the Austin school district. Matt is also a freelance writer for the online publication Austin.com.



Ryan Phillips lives in Lusk, WY and works for BBH Operating. He holds a certification by the Colorado State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Christine Tang is a second-year law student at the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law. She worked last summer at the Liberty Institute handling religious freedom cases. Christine earned the title of First Runner Up to Miss Texas 2013 last summer and most recently was awarded the title of Miss Plano 2014.

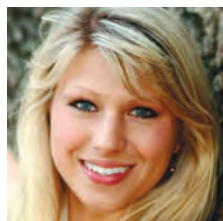


Jeremy Thompson is working on his MBA at Southern Methodist University and recently returned from a

global business trip to Tokyo and Beijing with his SMU program. Jeremy interned this past summer with Ericsson in Plano.

CLASS OF 2009

Whitney Clark is a senior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Elementary Education. Whitney is a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority and has enjoyed serving on the OSU steering committee for Freshman Follies and Spring Sing.



Chelsea Cunningham is employed with Homecare Homebase as an implementation consultant teaching

medical software to medical personnel. She graduated from Baylor University in May 2013 with a degree in Health Science.

Jessie Forrest is a fourth-year member of the Six White Horse equestrian drill team at Hardin Simmons University. Jessie and her team participated in the Children's Medical Center Holiday Parade and the Fort Worth Stock Show's "All Western Parade." Jessica returned to Hardin Simmons to study for a second Bachelor's degree in Speech Language Pathology.

CLASS OF 2010

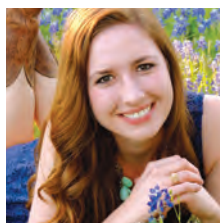
Kaylynn Armstrong is a senior nursing major at The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor.



Allie Corbin recently finished an internship with Executives in Action. She is a senior Communi-

cations major at The University of Oklahoma, where she is a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority and is on the leadership team with Campus Crusade for Christ.

Aaron DeLeon attends Texas A&M University and is majoring in Political Science. He was recently appointed to serve on the University's Student Aid Advisory Council and is co-founder and Deputy Editor of *The Good Bull*, an independent student newspaper on campus.



Sarah Klein is a senior in The Professional Program in Accounting with the Mays

Business School at Texas A&M University.

Scott Lichty is a senior at The University of North Texas and is majoring in Finance. He was recently elected the Intramural Chair for the Sigma Chi fraternity.

Madison Paulette is a senior at The University of North Texas studying Art Education and Painting. Madison's art is promoted on Facebook — Madison Paulette Art.

Carolyn Shannon recently completed an internship at Walt Disney World working as a character performer. She has also been selected to participate as an extra in the upcoming "Spongebob Squarepants 2" movie. Carolyn is a senior film major at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

CLASS OF 2011

Heather Burns is the Alumni Relations Chairman for the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority at Baylor University. An English major, Heather is also a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Honor Society and the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.



Taylor McNamara is a senior enrolled Baylor University at Maastricht, The Netherlands. She has also studied abroad

at Oxford University and Florence University of the Arts. Taylor is on the Academic Dean's List and is a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority.

Hope Murray will be spending her spring semester in Haiti working in the medical clinic at Mission of Hope assisting mobile clinics, and serving as the medical team liaison between the Americas and Mission of Hope. Hope is in her third year at The University of Oklahoma.



Lindsay Thompson is a nursing student at Samford University. She interned this past summer in Dr. Eric Hollabaugh's

(*Stephen*, PCA '08 and *Heather*, PCA '09) office as a medical assistant.

alumni

CLASS OF 2011

continued



Alyse Ullery was elected Governor of Patriot Academy, a political leadership boot camp, for the State of Texas for the 2013-14 session. She recently finished a semester internship with Southlake Representative Giovanni Capriglione at the State Capitol in Austin and is currently interning with Local Voice Solutions, a campaign consulting company. Alyse was elected Special Events Coordinator for the Alpha Si Omega Theatre Fraternity at The University of Texas where she continues as a double major honors student.

CLASS OF 2012

Camryn Clark is a sophomore at Baylor University studying Elementary Education. She is a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and sings on the praise team at Harris Creek Baptist Church.

Reid Corbin was chosen by Sigma Phi Epsilon at The University of Oklahoma to serve as one of its directors for the annual University Sing theatrical competition. Reid is a Journalism major and a worship leader for OU's Campus Crusade for Christ.

Rachel Patterson is a Fellow in the Samford University Honors College and was recently inducted into the Alpha Lambda Delta National Academic Honor Society. She is an English major and volunteers with Northstar, a Christian based inner city youth tutoring program.

Garrett Paulette is a sophomore at The University of Texas studying Science. Garrett is a member of the Beta Upsilon Chi National Christian fraternity.

Zach Peters is a redshirt freshman playing for the Arizona Wildcats men's basketball team.



Jacob Walsh competed last spring on The University of Texas undergraduate Mock Trial team, where he served as UT's defense closer at the National Championship Tournament in Washington, DC. Jacob was awarded with an All-American Attorney award as one of the top 20 attorneys competing from across the nation. He is currently a sophomore double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

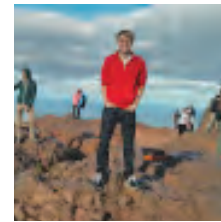
CLASS OF 2013

Marquan Botley is a Business Marketing major at Florida Atlantic University and serves on the board of the Student Athletic Council. Marquan is a member of the Owls Men's Basketball team where he plays guard.

Ashton Boyd is a member of the cheerleading team at The University of Alabama.

Ryan Gorman is a member of the cheerleading team at The University of Oklahoma.

Katie Grogan serves on the publicity committee with The University of Oklahoma Activities Council. She is a Chemistry major and a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority.



Clayton Hammond attends The University of Edinburgh in Scotland studying International Relations. He travels throughout Europe on the weekends and is involved in the International Students Organization.

Julius Randle, a freshman on the Kentucky Wildcats men's basketball team, was named as a first-team pre-season All-American by *USA Today*, and was also named as the preseason Southeastern Conference Player of the Year by a select panel of both SEC and national media members.

A Glance at Prestonwood Christian Academy

Impressive Statistics

In the last 12 months, Prestonwood Christian Academy has accumulated some impressive statistics:



PCA has set a record with an enrollment of **1,498 students** in 2013-14



PCA Class of 2013 celebrated the **1000th graduate**, *Wesley Williams*



9 National Merit scholars from PCA were awarded this school year and **7** last school year



PCA Theatre completed *Robin Hood*, its **25th production**



360 students have already signed up for a mission or service-oriented option for the 2014 Minimester



177 students and **86 parents** accepted Christ last year



Photos by: Terri LaMendola

Christmas Angels

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

What do the hands and feet of Jesus look like? At Prestonwood Christian Academy, a glimpse of this can be seen with the PCA Christmas Angel Tree. Families, students, faculty, small groups, Bible-study groups and many others all have the joy of blessing PCA families that are in need of a little extra help this season. Our community has shown an outpouring of love and generosity to other families within PCA needing additional support this holiday.

Last Christmas, the PCA community came together to help 18 families, and this year, we have had the opportunity to come along side almost 30 PCA families to help their Christmas look a little brighter with the help of our Angel Tree.

One of our PCA Angel families allowed us to share a little of their story. Due to circumstances of jobs and various other things, this family began praying about moving to Dallas so they could be close to family for support. As God began to open the door for their move, He also brought them to PCA. When the angel program was shared with them about allowing the PCA family to come along side them during this time in the form of Christmas angels, tears came to their eyes. They never thought attending PCA was possible nor could they believe the blessing of being an "angel." While Christmas would be very tough this year, they counted their blessings in simply being a part of the PCA community, but now they see that God is much bigger. While He has always provided for their needs, through this program He has shown

that He knows their desires, especially for their child's Christmas, which would not have been possible.

Another PCA family has children with life-changing health issues that brings along more financial pressures. While all families are asked for a list of various "wishes and needs" this family's particular "needs list" included basic items that many of us take for granted, such as a bed for one of their children along with sheets and a blanket. They also requested books to help educate them as parents as well as children's books to help their children learn more about their health issues. Being in ministry themselves, they said they see God time and again, not only in their lives but also in the lives of those at PCA.

"One of the biggest blessings this year has been seeing the giving come full circle. With this being PCA's second year of the Christmas Angel Tree we have some families that were on the angel list last year that are no longer on the list," said PCA Director of Diversity *Jenny Brady*.

"While most of these families have not economically fully recovered, many are getting their own angels to adopt this year, explaining that they need to return the huge blessing they were given last year."

Imagine the mom who gets to open up a cozy robe or the little boy whose face is bright Christmas morning after seeing his brand new bike under the tree or even the little girl opening her princess outfit. Your loving gifts make a difference not only for these special families but also for His Kingdom. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. Many of you have expressed when dropping off your Angel items that YOU receive the biggest blessing by blessing others.

holiday traditions

Operation Christmas Child



Thanksgiving Celebration



Photos by: Terri LaMendola


your gift

- Your gift, regardless of the amount, makes a significant difference in the day-to-day life of every Lion
- Your gift is a commitment to excellence in Kingdom education
- Your gift enriches the intellectual, social and personal development of every Lion
- The impact of your gift to the PCA Fund is measured in the life of a Lion

Give online to the PCA Fund today at www.prestonwoodchristian.org/givenow.

PCA FUND

THE MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



PCA Upper School Principal
Dr. Terry Rodgers lit the flames
for PCA's newest playoff tradition,
Bonfire.

in closing



Prestonwood Christian Academy
A Ministry of Prestonwood Baptist Church
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