

# LION'S PRIDE



PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

To ASSIST Christian parents by helping EQUIP students to

EMBRACE biblical truth,

STRIVE for academic excellence and

MODEL Christ-like leadership  
in their homes, churches and communities for Christ.



## A Legacy of Learning

### The Apple Family

See story on p. 13



# table *of* contents

- 4 From the Head of School
- 5 PCA Initiatives in Action
- 6 In the Classroom: Technology
- 8 Alumni: Engaging the World
- 10 Campus Connection
- 12 Distinctively PCA
- 14 Projecting Academic Excellence:  
A Legacy of Learning
- 16 Why PCA?
- 18 시작은 늘 어렵습니다
- 20 The Making of a Play
- 22 Student Ambassadors
- 23 Counter Culture Shock
- 24 A Fall of Victories

**Riley Waddell**, PCA kindergartener and class of 2022, lights a candle from her mom, Reagan Waddell, at State of School. Her candle was lit by Paula and Eddie Caldwell, parents of Senior **Josh Caldwell**, one of PCA's twenty families with seniors who have been at PCA since it opened its doors in 1997.

#### ON THE COVER:

*In the PCA Leadership Center, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, are PCA students **Creighton Apple**, junior; **Madeline Apple**, freshman; **Chan Apple**, fourth grader; and **Colby Apple**, Pre-K4; children of Chris and Jill Apple.*

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If you have PCA news you would like to contribute, or have questions regarding this publication, please contact the Marketing Office at [pcamarketing@prestonwoodchristian.org](mailto:pcamarketing@prestonwoodchristian.org).

# head of school

## BEYOND 6801 W. PARK BLVD.

I have always contended that schools don't change lives. God changes lives and transforms hearts. With equal passion and conviction, I would claim that there are very few educational environments as committed to biblical worldview development as Prestonwood Christian Academy. This certainly does not mean that every student exits our Academy secure in his or her faith, belief system, and worldview. It only means that our students and parents are provided with what many feel is the most unique learning environment and opportunity in the country. Woven into a proven academic track record is the intentional integration of critical thinking, writing, discussions and reading objectives all strategically filtered through the truth of God's Word. And, serving as the perspective lens to this worldview development process is the Latin script *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* (To God's Greater Glory), strategically and reverently placed on the school's crest by our founding Trustees.

We are witnessing "fruit" beyond 6801 W. Park Blvd. Our claims are no longer theory. Recently, I had the privilege of spending time with PCA graduates during our homecoming festivities and other alumni gatherings. Many are now entering "real world university" as they begin their careers and God's assignment for them. I was especially intrigued by **Caroline Clark's** (PCA class of '07 and current Liberty University student; performing artist in Hollywood) professional and spiritual impact there. As back-up singer to current phenom Ashley Tisdale, as well as her own budding career as a singing artist, I was blessed to hear how Caroline is taking her ambassadorship for Christ seriously and convincingly (see picture on page 9). Living for Christ is no longer theory to Caroline. She is on the front-line to a part of the marketplace that desperately needs to smell an authentic aroma of Christ.

**Dr. Miranda, PCA's Upper School Guidance & College Placement Director**, and I recently gathered with several

alumni in New York City and at Princeton University. It was great to eat, laugh, and catch up (see picture on page 9). One day they are walking the hallways at PCA and the next day they are sitting in classrooms at Yale, Princeton, Harvard, Columbia, King's, and Marymount Manhattan. I was enthralled with one student's accounts of her ethics class with world-renowned professor and ethicist Dr. Peter Singer. If you want to get your blood pumping just read some of Dr. Singer's views on the "sanctity of life." For example, he reasons that where a baby has Down's syndrome (and in other instances of "life that has begun very badly") parents should be allowed to kill the child within 28 days after birth. Singer states that human babies are not persons. Hence their lives would seem to be no more worthy of protection than the life of a fetus". Unfortunately, Dr. Singer's ideology is shaping a generation of thinkers, leaders and marketplace values. But, as powerful as Dr. Singer is, sitting in his classroom is a young lady whose worldview is grounded on biblically-based convictions. That student is reasoning in a marketplace that desperately needs to witness an authentic Christian mind whose worldview impacts all areas of her life.

We can produce students with the spiritual depth needed to enter our pluralistic society and not fall prey to empty philosophies, but enter the marketplace God has called them to with confidence, purpose and an eternal perspective. Jesus Christ must be our model; *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* must remain our perspective; and, wisdom and discernment producing rigor in every area of our school must be our practice. As reported in the State of School address in November, read more on the following page about how we are preparing our students for what is beyond 6801 W. Park Blvd.



**Larry Taylor,  
Head of School**

*Prestonwood  
Christian Academy*



## State of School Follow Up: Progress Leading PCA Into The Future

*The PCA Initiatives are built upon five Priorities that reflect a critical component in PCA's institutional advancement. This creates a path for moving PCA forward while remaining committed to our mission and Kingdom Education. Already, we are experiencing initial progress.*



### INVESTING IN FACULTY

- *Ensure compensation and benefit programs exceed area benchmarks*

It's been exciting to see progress made in this initiative through our continued efforts and strategic planning relating to area benchmarks. Great strides have been made to provide competitive compensation and benefit packages for our faculty as well as a training plan committed to philosophical and instructional excellence. A renewed commitment has been made to ensure achievement of this initiative for years to come.



### INVESTING IN PROGRAMS

- *Deploy a comprehensive, campus-wide technology improvement strategy*
- *Implement a distance learning strategy to extend our curriculum beyond our campus*
- *Expand our World Impact Program and it's cornerstone offering, Minimester*
- *Enhance PCA's curriculum offerings to maximize student potential*

The Technology Improvement Plan has been adopted with funding strategies being considered. An anonymous, leadership gift has been made to help advance this key strategy. PCAplus has since been unveiled, extending PCA beyond our campus borders through online courses and other distance learning strategies. Minimester 2010 has been expanded and additional fundraising strategies have been advanced to assist students in funding their short-term mission opportunity. And for the first time, each of Minimester's mission-focused offerings is on wait-list; we are eager to see what God has in store for students in Minimester 2010. Strategies are being developed to expand and enhance PCA's curriculum offerings including the Center for Media Excellence, with its new video internship program

and soon-to-be enhanced facilities in the Upper School. Enhancements have also been made in the core areas of Math and English, and students are already seeing the fruit of these enrichments.

### INVESTING IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- *Extend financial assistance to families who would otherwise not be able to afford a private Christian education, or who are experiencing a temporary hardship, or who simply are underprivileged has been primarily funded through the annual budgeting process*



It's encouraging to see great progress in our financial assistance program through the successful shared vision of the Prestonwood Foundation and PCA. The Zig Zigar Servant Leadership Award was established with the purpose of honoring the legacy of Zig Zigar by annually naming a recipient who embodies the very essence of his servant leadership.

### INVESTING IN FACILITIES

- *Identify and advance ancillary capital projects to areas such as arts and athletics*
- *Identify and advance small capital improvements to existing areas of our campus*

Advancement of these initiatives is a priority and the PCA community may see or begin to see improvements to areas including enhanced media facilities in the Upper School.

### PCA INITIATIVES LEADS PCA INTO THE FUTURE

The PCA Initiatives seeks a new level of excellence. PCA aspires to what few institutions, if any, have ever achieved. The future ... the vision ... the PCA Initiatives.

# In the Classroom



## Technology for Middle School Science



Prestonwood Christian Academy's Middle School science department was awarded money along with Lewisville Independent School District (LISD) through the Target Tech in Texas (T3) collaborative grant. Thirty-two districts were chosen to receive technology grants with the stipulation that they make a percentage available to a non-profit educational institution within their region. The LISD partnered with PCA allowing \$50,000 in grant money for Middle School science technology enhancement. With this grant, Middle School students and staff will receive:

- *Portable laptops on carts for use in multiple classrooms*
- *Four classroom projectors*
- *Science lab equipment (such as probes)*
- *Teacher training on how to integrate technology into the science classroom*



## Media Center Expansion

THE UPPER SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER is transforming to integrate more technology in students' learning experience. The reconfiguration of existing space allows for an additional technology lab. The new Upper School Technology lab will be attached to the Upper School Media Center to allow entire classes to do research, while not interrupting normal Media Center activities. The lab is being designed to maximize hands-on efficiency, and allow instructors to direct and monitor student activity. The additional lab will also allow another lab to be focused on video production and editing, which is becoming a key tool in training our students to engage the culture around them.



**SKY RANCH**  
TEXAS COLORADO OKLAHOMA

Register NOW  
for the  
PCA Family Camp  
space is limited so sign up today!

Head of School, Larry Taylor  
will serve as the family pastor  
at both of these weeks.

Summer Dates  
July 4-10 and July 11-17, 2010



visit [www.skyRanch.org/Familycamps](http://www.skyRanch.org/Familycamps)



**Ragan Rutherford, PCA class of '07**, is bravely preparing to serve our country in the military. Currently a junior at Texas A&M and in the Army Corps of Cadets, Ragan recently graduated from Airborne School in Ft. Benning, Georgia, was accepted in the Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization (at A&M), and serves as chaplain for his outfit. Working on a degree in International Studies with an emphasis in Islam and the Middle East, Ragan is set to graduate in December 2011 and plans to be an Army Ranger.

# COLUMBIA DAILY SPECTATOR

SEPT. 9, 2009

## CU golf kicks season off with weekend tourney

"[The Columbia University] men's golf team will feature three new faces this year as head coach Rich Mueller prepares the team to go after its third straight Ivy League title...Rounding out the recruiting class is **Ford Fischer**, who was a three-time captain for **Prestonwood Christian Academy** in Plano, Texas. Fischer, a four-time Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools 5A All-State golfer, led his team to both district and regional titles in his senior year. In addition to winning their second straight league title last season, the men's team was one of only two Ivy teams to be named Golf Coaches Association of America All-Academic Teams..." — Kunal Gupta

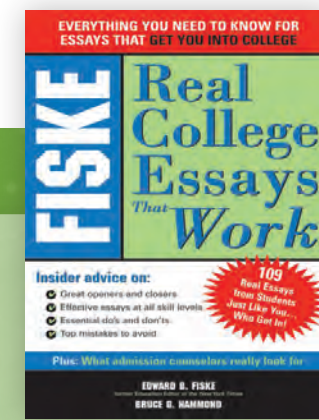
Ford Fischer, PCA '09  
Freshman at Columbia University



Ouachita Baptist University sophomore and PCA '08 graduate **Beth Wendt** advances the soccer ball down the field for the Tigers.



**Paige Niewerth**, sophomore at the University of Alabama and PCA '07 graduate, had an article published as an intern at *Links*, a popular golf magazine. After participating in yearbook and newspaper at PCA, she decided to pursue a degree in public relations with a double minor in communications and business.



**Luke Taylor** and **Elizabeth Lloyd**, both PCA '09 graduates and freshmen at Princeton University, were published as essay contributors to the *FISKE Real College Essays That Work*, one of the top books on writing college admissions essays. Prestonwood Christian Academy is the only institution with more than one student chosen for publication.



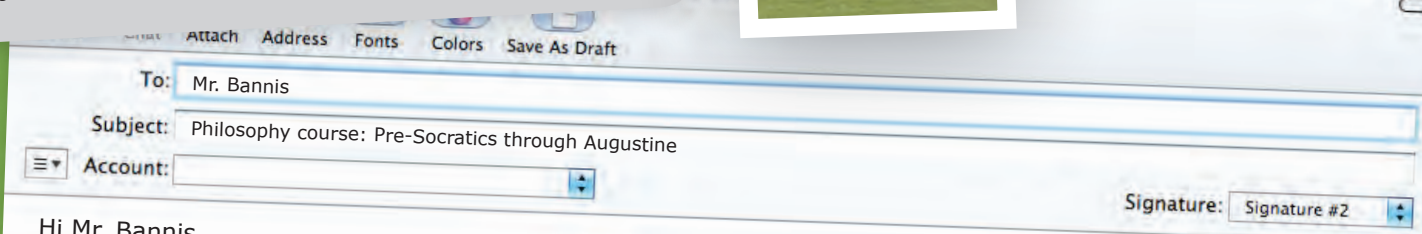
A group of PCA alumni caught up with Head of School **Larry Taylor** over dinner at Princeton. From left to right is **Bryce Taylor**, sophomore at Yale University and PCA '07; **Elizabeth Lloyd**, freshman at Princeton University and PCA '09; **Cassidy Woodard**, freshman at Marymount Manhattan and PCA '09; **Ford Fischer**, freshman at Columbia University and PCA '09; Head of School **Larry Taylor**; **Luke Taylor**, freshman at Princeton University and PCA '09; **Rusty Mason**, senior at Harvard University and PCA '06; and **Kara McKee**, junior at Princeton University and PCA '07.



(Top:) Pictured with **Ashley Tisdale** is back-up singer and PCA '07 alumna, and Liberty University student, **Caroline Clark**. When she's not touring, Caroline also pursues her own music career in Los Angeles.



(Right:) **Jenna Paulette**, PCA '07 and junior at Savannah College of Art and Design, recently competed in and won The Big D Opry new country talent competition held in Dallas. "My goal is to change people's lives through music by painting pictures of how life can be in Christ, life that is satisfied and whole without necessarily saying the name of Christ in every song. My life, I pray, will point people to Him."



Hi Mr. Bannis,

This is **Chris Silverburg**. I just wanted to send you an e-mail to let you know that I'm in a philosophy course this semester (History of Philosophy 1: Pre-Socratics through Augustine), and I'm doing really well in it, thanks in large part to the preparation I got [at PCA]. So I wanted to say thanks.

Philosophy is actually popping up in almost all of my classes...In my Literature Humanities class (...where we read a bunch of Great Books), I totally summed up a discussion by talking about flourishing and happiness/eudaimonia and all of that good stuff. My professor was actually surprised, and a kid in my class thought that I had read all of the Nicomachean Ethics (which I...haven't gotten anywhere near that yet). So 12th grade philosophy is totally working in my favor right now.

So yeah, I just wanted to send you a quick e-mail to say thanks and let you know about my cool philosophy class.

Thanks,  
Chris — Freshman at Princeton University (PCA '09)

# webcasting



Junior Eric Langhoff and sophomore Chase Bond served as cameramen and video editors for the webcasts.

Student-run webcasting began at PCA this fall with home football games. Through the efforts of Upper School video interns **Eric Langhoff**, **Jenna Morey** and PCA's Reel Clubmember **Chase Bond**, nearly 1,000 viewers tuned in from more than 22 states and nine countries to watch the Lion's compete. Webcasting will continue through basketball season and even for certain special events. Tune in to discover what you can catch on the web!



Senior videographer Jenna Morey and volunteer Dan Parker prepare for the beginning of another exciting football webcast.

# Campus CONNECTION



The mystery reader in Mrs. Tina Dodson's third grade class turned out to be PCA freshman and Varsity Basketball player, **Julius Randle**.



(Top:) **See You at the Pole** brought PCA students together to pray for their school and country.

(Right:) PCA's marching band took to the football field in their new uniforms.



(Left:) **Bennett Seal** loved having his grandmother, **Gayle Harkrider**, with him at All School Worship on Grandparent's Day.

(Right:) PCA Junior **Cesar Palacio** shared a beautiful clarinet solo at the State of School address.



Kaleb Kyser and Allie Corbin were named king and queen of PCA Homecoming 2009.



MaryLacey Thomson, a member of the *Fury*, led Lower School students in a chant during the Homecoming pep rally.



Seniors won the Homecoming float competition with their space-themed float and choreographed routine to Miley Cyrus' song "Party in the U.S.A."



Nationally-recognized basketball players **Zach Peters** and **Julius Randle** joined Head of School **Larry Taylor** on stage at PCA's State of School address.

# campus ministry team expands efforts



(Top left): Dan Panetti, World-view Director, and Mark Lichty, Campus Pastor. (Bottom left): Julie Pyle, Campus Ministry Administrative Assistant, and Lainie Montgomery, Campus Ministry Coordinator.

One of Prestonwood Christian Academy's distinguishing factors is the Campus Ministry Team. These staff members make daily steps toward students in an effort to minister to them on a personal and relational level. Lainie Montgomery, PCA parent of five children, joined the team this year as the Campus Ministry Coordinator. "The team is becoming more intentional through non-traditional ministry opportunities. We are developing a more comprehensive, school-wide plan to minister and connect to our families and students," she said. "The Campus Ministry Team's goal is to minister to the whole person: body, soul and spirit."

*“Life happens and the PCA Campus Ministry Team is there to join our families in the journey.”*

— LAINIE MONTGOMERY

# live the code

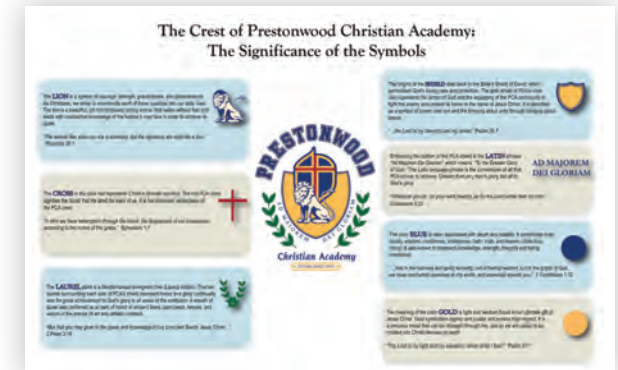
Across the PCA campus, students, faculty, staff and parents have been learning more about the PCA Code of Honor and the important symbolism of the elements found on our PCA crest — all backed by Scripture. Students are learning what it means to subscribe to the Latin phrase on the school crest, "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam," meaning "To God's Greater Glory."

Third grade students embraced the crest's meaning and created hallway bulletin boards devoted to defining its symbols. These students also presented the crest's meaning during Grandparent's Day. Upper School students were trained in teams and are spreading the word about the Code of Honor and the crest in creative ways. "I am excited to be able to present what the honor code means because it gives me a chance to tell other students what the Code of Honor means to me and how I apply it to my life," said Senior Macauley Hopper, a PCA student leader.

PCA's Core Group and faculty are leading the charge about the importance of the Code and our crest to their spheres of influence.



Third graders Victoria Lee, Antonio Romanoski and Dylan Parker proudly stand in front of the bulletin board that taught Lower School students what each element of the PCA crest represents.



Classroom posters explained the meaning of each PCA crest element.

## Family Conference

with Dr. John Trent

marriage and parenting

Please join us for the annual Family Conference featuring Dr. John Trent, guest speaker on the topics of marriage and parenting on Jan. 22-23, 2010. Dr. Trent is founding president of StrongFamilies.com, and is a bestselling author of books such as *The Blessing*, *The Language of Love*, *Heart Shift* and *Breaking the Cycle of Divorce*. He has been a popular speaker with over 25 years' experience serving and strengthening families.

Friday, January 22 6:00-9:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, January 23 8:00 a.m.-Noon  
 12:45 p.m. Single Parent Session

The cost is \$35 per person. Dinner is included on Friday night and breakfast on Saturday. Childcare is included in the registration cost, but reservations are required.

Register for the conference and childcare online at [PrestonwoodChristian.org](http://PrestonwoodChristian.org).



PCA sixth graders Joshua and Jordan Salim reverently raise the flag at the Lower School.

## honor: Sixth Grade Honor Guard Founded

When the desire arose from PCA Middle School administration to teach students patriotism and honor toward their country, the sixth grade rose to the challenge. Special guest Plano Fire Department Honor Guard Captain Tim O'Connor instructed students on the importance of the flag, why we treat it with proper respect, and how certain aspects of the ceremony hold biblical truths as their meaning. For one week a month this group of 20 sixth graders raise the flag at the Lower School at the beginning of each day and lower it at the end of the day. These students are leading the charge for our Middle School on the importance of reverence and honor for our country and for our Lord Jesus Christ.

*“Serving on the PCA Honor Guard will provide an excellent avenue for students to not only learn for themselves why we show great respect for the American Flag, but also to be an example to other students through their actions.”*

— PHIL ARMSTRONG,  
MIDDLE SCHOOL  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

# On the Cover

## Projecting Academic Excellence: A Legacy of Learning



**FOR PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY, ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FOR EACH STUDENT AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL IS PARAMOUNT** to helping students be successful at PCA and beyond. Academic excellence, wrapped across curriculum with a Kingdom Education philosophy providing synergy between school, home and church, is one of PCA's strongest goals. "Strive for academic excellence" is an important aspect to the institution and can be found in PCA's mission statement. That driving mission is posted prominently for all to see on the wall of the PCA Leadership Center.

*"In pursuit of excellence in education, the mission of Prestonwood Christian Academy is: To assist Christian parents by helping equip students to embrace biblical truth, strive for academic excellence, and model Christ-like leadership to influence their homes, churches and communities for Christ."*

— PCA Mission Statement

**MAKING IT A REALITY.** PCA faculty works with nearly 1,500 students at varying age levels and developmental stages from grades Pre K3 to 12 during the school year to make excellence through academic rigor a reality. With so many subjects, students and their varying stages, how does PCA faculty help develop student success?

According to Senior Director of Curriculum & Instruction **Gwen Hobbs**, the planning and discussion of curriculum for all grades happens through 10 vertical teams in the subjects of Bible, English, math, science, history, foreign language, technology/media, physical education, fine arts and competitions. These teams are composed of teachers from every grade and it is unusual for most private schools.

It's a very intentional process, and it is an essential part of creating a legacy of learning in families by linking today's

lesson in math Pre-K3 student **Colby Apple** learned to the lesson in math big brother and Junior **Creighton Apple** learned that same day.

"PCA has specific objectives and standards written for every course, more than 200 courses school-wide so there is an accountability system designed around our objectives," said Mrs. Hobbs. "Another key to PCA faculty helping our students succeed is to provide them with training. PCA's staff institute training module is a deliberate training plan for our teachers and staff."

Assistant Head of School over Academics **Dana Epperson** points to the fact that surrounding every academic effort at PCA is an over-arching factor that is highly unusual from most schools.

"The integration of biblical principles into curricular content using the biblical worldview integration planner is very unique to PCA," said Mrs. Epperson. "Very few schools in our area and beyond are this deliberate in integrating the principles rooted in God's Word into curricular lessons."

PCA reaches a broad spectrum of learners and specializes in helping each student find academic success. This feature of our Academy makes it extremely valuable to parents, including former teacher and PCA parent **Reagan Waddell**.

"The academic program at PCA was designed with a purpose," said Mrs. Waddell. "Its academic core values and vision of a Kingdom Education make PCA's approach to the instruction of our children distinctive. The sequential order of learning allows students in all grades to build upon and reinforce concepts taught while providing opportunities for enrichment."

Academic excellence is put into practice in all grades. Last year, PCA Upper School students were more than 50 percent higher above the national average in their Advanced Placement® (AP) exam pass rate. Passing AP

exams allows Upper School students to gain college credit before entering college. Additionally, last year PCA saw 22 students earn the recognition of AP Scholars, with alumnus **Christopher Silverberg** achieving the highest possible score on all eight possible exams.

One element of PCA instruction that is highly-emphasized is rigor in mathematics at all grade-levels. PCA students are continuing to score higher than the national average in mathematics testing. Lower School students scored over 88 percent higher than other students and Middle School students scored over 84 percent. Not to mention the average pass rate for PCA AP students is a staggering 93 percent which is well above the national average.

PCA understands the value of strong writing and communications skills. Emphasis on writing across the curriculum through PCA's Collins Thinking and Writing Program is essential to helping teachers and students use common vocabulary to develop strong communications skills. PCA parents find that students in grades 1-12 learn research skills and develop a research plan. Additionally, last year PCA was the only school to have two student essays published in the annual, nationally-acclaimed *FISKE Real College Essays That Work* book (see page 9 for the story).

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS REACH EVERY STUDENT.** PCA is unique in its ability to provide programs to assist students at a wide variety of learning levels. One such program is PCA's Learning Lab, led by **Cheryl Burns**, that touches more than 100 students in each division – Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. PCA's learning lab is staffed by five full-time teachers who assist students and also observe students to determine if the Learning Lab is needed for each.

The Learning Lab provides ongoing support and training for classroom teachers and provides ongoing communications between home and school, while monitoring student academic progress.

*strive - to make strenuous efforts toward any goal; to strive for success*

According to teachers representing all divisions, PCA's Learning Lab is an important aspect of their daily instruction.

"I have seen a rise in self-confidence with my students because they are able to learn in the best way that suits them," said **Carol Ferguson**, first grade teacher. "The puzzle pieces fit together and their frustration level is gone."

According to **Susan Ladd**, Upper School chemistry teacher, the Learning Lab allows students the opportunity to revisit and review skills in a smaller, less threatening environment. Mrs. Ladd believes that student learning styles are affirmed and celebrated as our staff assists students and discovers instructional techniques that help them be successful in the classroom.

*"What I learned in and out of the classroom I apply each and every day at college—from conversations I have with others, to often feeling slightly ahead of my peers in understanding many subjects."*

— LIZ ALBRIGHT, SENIOR AT TEXAS A&M AND PCA '06

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS MEASURE UP.

Truly distinctive to PCA are the many Kingdom Education-focused programs surrounding our students. PCA offers unique staff, such as a Campus Minister, Worldview Director and Director of Diversity who each bring their gifts to accompany student academics. Chapel, Bible and cultural apologetics courses serve to strengthen educational experiences from a spiritual perspective and encourage personal relationships with Jesus Christ. Through these programs that complement academics, students learn to have a

biblical worldview on their culture and the issues of not only their times, but of the future. Programs such as the Student Leadership Institute, Lions Scholar Program, World Impact Day and Minimester mission trips help students take their academic training into the real world to serve others. Athletics, fine arts and clubs and competitions led by professionals in their fields help round out the PCA student experience.

(continued on page 26)





# Why PCA?

When there are many private Christian schools to choose from, some ask how Prestonwood Christian Academy distinguishes itself from the rest. Is it in the world of academia? Or is the difference only in the spiritual?

PCA has distinguishing factors in the areas below:



Prestonwood  
Christian Academy

## SPIRITUALLY

- **Biblical Worldview Integration:** The Truths of God's Holy Word are woven into every class at every level at PCA, not just in chapel and Bible class.
- **Worship Opportunities:** Students in Pre-Kindergarten 3 through grade 12 experience a weekly chapel as well as five All School Worship services throughout the year.
- **Character Training:** PCA puts an emphasis on character training, the PCA Code of Honor, respect and servant leadership.
- **Mission Connection:** Students in the Lower School, Middle School and Upper School are involved in mission trips and service projects. Older students serve as mentors and inspirations for the younger students through the adopt-an-athlete program, reading buddies, and mission partner programs.
- **New Christ Followers:** Prestonwood Christian Academy celebrated 144 student and 45 parent salvations during the 2008-09 school year.

## STUDENT-FOCUSED

- **Assistant Teachers:** Every Pre-Kindergarten 3 through Kindergarten class has a teacher's assistant. Grades 1 through 4 have grade level assistants increasing the amount of individual attention each student receives.
- **Balance:** PCA provides balance for the student and the family. Attention to homework loads and homework relevancy coupled with individual attention and tutoring provided by the faculty plus a block schedule result in academic excellence without placing undue stress on students or their families.
- **Student-Mandated:** Teachers and administration are able to focus on each student's needs rather than relying on the results of a state-mandated test.
- **Kingdom Education:** PCA is founded on the philosophy of Kingdom Education, which focuses on the partnership between the home, school and church. This philosophy sets PCA apart as a Biblical Worldview training model for the next generation.
- **Advisory Groups:** Individual nurturing takes place in small group settings. Lower School students benefit from programs designed by the Lower School Counselor to meet their needs. Sixth grade boys have *Start Strong: Finish Strong*, the fifth and sixth grade girls have the *Fine China Sisterhood* and *Fine China Society*. Students in grades 7 through 12 have advisory groups.
- **Tuition Assistance:** Tuition assistance is based on qualified needs and is distributed as available from year to year. Approximately 20 percent of PCA students receive tuition assistance with an average grant of \$5,000.

## ACADEMICALLY

- **Writing Across the Curriculum:** The Collins Thinking and Writing Program helps teachers and students use common vocabulary as well as levels of expectations on writing across the curriculum, and writing in every course whether it is music, science or English. The byproduct is to develop good communication skills while emphasizing higher order thinking processes.
- **Developed Research Plan:** Students in grades 1 through 12 are learning research skills that are preparing them for college.
- **Spectrum of Learners:** We reach many levels of learners from those with learning differences in the Learning Lab to those gifted in the Advanced Placement® courses. In addition, students are offered the option of demonstrating mastery in a variety of ways rather than only through written tests.
- **Emphasis on Western Civilization:** PCA teaches the foundation of our society and the Christian faith.
- **Lower School Enrichment Courses:** Students in Pre-Kindergarten 3 through grade 4 are exposed to Spanish, art, technology, music, P.E. and library.
- **Duke Talent Search:** Nearly 65 percent of PCA seventh graders qualified for the Duke Talent Search.
- **AP® Test Scores:** PCA Upper School students have a 92 percent Advanced Placement exam pass rate versus the national average of 34 percent. Advanced Placement classes are nationally-recognized, college-level courses. Highly qualified Upper School students gain college credit and recognition in the college admission process when they pass each AP course exam.
- **Scholarships:** PCA graduates have accumulated over \$12 million dollars in college scholarships over the past three years.
- **FISKE Book Publishing:** PCA was the only school with more than one student to have their essay published in the annual *FISKE Real College Essays That Work* book.
- **AP® Scholar Awards:** Twenty-two PCA students have earned recognition as AP Scholars. Only 18 percent of the nearly 1.7 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at the sufficiently high level to earn an AP Scholar Award. One PCA student, now attending Columbia University, achieved the highest possible score of five on all eight AP exams.
- **Alumni Nationwide:** Nearly 100 percent of PCA students have matriculated to over 135 colleges and universities, including some of the most prestigious fine arts and engineering colleges and universities.
- **Socratic Method:** PCA is continuing to train teachers on how to integrate higher order thinking skills throughout the curriculum. One means is through Socratic Seminars where students learn to clearly express their opinions with supporting evidence from a text; to question or defend the accuracy of what they read; to challenge the ideas of the author by noting bias, distortion, or lack of information; to contrast the accuracy of one text with other sources to form defensible critiques, and to make solid judgments about a text derived from interpretation and inferential information.

## ATHLETICALLY

- **Championships:** Since 2000, PCA athletic teams have brought home 22 district titles, 12 regional titles, five state titles, four state finalist titles and five national championships.
- **Sports:** Participation in sports begins in seventh grade. Fifteen types of sports are offered school-wide and there are currently 58 boys and girls PCA teams in Middle School and Upper School combined.
- **Participation:** Over 85 percent of Upper School students are active in athletics.
- **PCA at the College-Level:** PCA currently has nearly 20 athletes competing at the college level in numerous athletic programs across the country. Two PCA alumni competed against one another in the recent NCAA Men's College Baseball World Series.
- **PCA Athletes Gain National Attention:** PCA currently has two basketball athletes who are highly sought-after by the country's top university basketball programs and are considered among the highest ranked players in the nation.

## DISTINCTIVELY

- **Unique Staff:** PCA has a number of unique staff positions that reflect its emphasis on Biblical Worldview training:
  - Full-time *Campus Minister* leads a *Campus Ministry Team*.
  - Full-time *Director of Curriculum* vertically aligns every piece of curriculum from Pre-Kindergarten 3 through grade 12.
  - Full-time *Worldview Director* provides direction on culturally-relevant decisions students and parents face on a day-to-day basis.
  - *Director of Diversity* leads the initiative, based on the definition of biblical diversity: gender, race, age, ability (physical challenges and individual talents), ethnicity (culture) and economic status.
- **Student Leadership Institute:** Students who participate in Student Leadership Institute (SLI) are given the opportunity to engage the culture through training, debate, event participation, being a servant leader, and being actively involved in a local church body. One student took her training from SLI and used it to plan and execute a student mission trip to the Amazon.
- **Lions Scholar:** The Lions Scholar program (LSP) equips and develops Middle School and Upper School students to enter prestigious universities to attain positions of influence in leadership, academics and places of cultural impact for the purpose of engaging the culture for Christ.
- **Learning Lab:** The PCA Learning Lab supports students with learning differences so that they can experience success in the regular academic schedule and be prepared to succeed in college.
- **Kingdom Parent Institute:** Through Kingdom Parent Institute (KPI), parents are provided with classes, a family mission trip, a family conference and biblically-based materials to assist in being a Kingdom parent. Parents and students are both afforded the opportunity to attend the annual Biblical Worldview Institute featuring speakers and topics applicable to the culture.
- **World Impact Day:** World Impact is a school-wide program focused on missions and service efforts. The PCA family is given the opportunity to pray for the student missionaries, commission them for their trips and offer financial support.
- **Minimester:** Middle School and Upper School students are afforded a spring trip that exposes them to opportunities in mission work, internships, academic growth and fine arts. There are six international and over 10 local and national trips available. Lower School students participate by adopting mission trips to support through prayers and supplies.
- **Graduation Goal:** In addition to providing a strong academic foundation, one of PCA's goals is for a graduating student to be able to define their faith and defend their faith. PCA alumni comment frequently at how surprised they are when they try to have a serious discussion with their college peers saying, "They have not had the training to know what they believe, much less how to **define** or **defend** a belief."
- **Clubs:** Upper School students have the opportunity to participate in many clubs including: the Fury (school spirit organization), Chess Club, Diverge (Diversity club), International Thespian Society, National Honors Society, Green Team (Recycle club), Student Government Association, Spanish Club and Youthquest.
- **Competitions:** Many competitions are provided as opportunities for students to take what they've learned and put it into practice. PCA competitions include: Destination Imagination, Math Olympics, Spelling Bee, Speech Meet, "Stand up and Be Heard," Future Problem Solvers, National Spanish Exam, Math Challenge, Stock Market Game, TAPPS Academic Competitions, as well as many Fine Arts and Athletic competitions.

## ARTISTICALLY

- **Musical Productions:** The Fine Arts department produces one musical a year. A *Dallas Morning News* reporter wrote of the 2009 spring musical *42<sup>nd</sup> Street*, "I can honestly say that I have never been to a better high school production."
- **Drama Productions:** The Fine Arts department produces one drama production a year. The fall 2008 production of *Little Women* was selected as a "show stopper" state winner by the *USA Today Weekend Magazine*.
- **Middle School Drama:** The drama department recently produced their first Middle School production, *Joseph and the Technicolor Coat*.
- **Participation:** Over 65 percent of Upper School students are involved in fine arts.
- **Honor Choir:** PCA provides Lower School and Middle School students an opportunity to participate and compete in Honor Choir.

# international student program

## 시작은 늘 어렵습니다

(Korean for "All beginnings are difficult")

### PCA's Program Grows as Student Diversity Increases to 20 Percent

Imagine you are in a foreign country. What language are they speaking? What type of food are they eating? Where is a safe place to stay? Is there a Wal-Mart on any corner? You are thrown into an environment you don't know; the language, clothes, etiquette and traditions all appear to be completely radical from what you know and who you are. How would you adjust and thrive? More importantly, what if you were looking for hope and didn't know where to find it?

That is the scenario each international student faces when they step foot on the campus of Prestonwood Christian Academy in Plano, Texas, the United States of America. Their world changes in every way. It's one thing to be away from your friends and people you know, but what's it like being away from your family for so long?

Our every day details are every day challenges for students who are still learning the language—much less the slang. Have you ever thought about what it sounds like when you say things such as, "Cool!" Isn't that a gauge of temperature?

**Jenny Brady**, Director of Diversity at PCA, knows what this feels like. Her missionary parents moved her to Honduras when she was in the seventh grade. Isn't Middle School hard enough without being in a foreign country? Mrs. Brady dealt with the adjustments to foreign culture and what it feels like to be the new and "different" student. "I remember I had some adults help me with my transition to Honduras, but it would have been so nice if I'd had the help of someone my own age," Mrs. Brady said. "Someone who could understand what I was facing every day."

**Alathea Holt**, Upper School Teacher, also experienced life as an international guest, but she was a teacher when she moved to Thailand to teach for a year. "As a foreigner in Thailand, I constantly needed help more than I was able to give or minister to the Thai people, which helped me to recognize the great power that comes through serving international students here in the United States," Alathea shared.

It was through Mrs. Brady and Mrs. Holt's own experiences that spurred the launch of the International Student Program (ISP) at Prestonwood Christian Academy. They realized the percentage of diverse students at PCA had grown over the past five years to nearly 20 percent, and there were more and more international students with needs that they understood. But the desire for Mrs. Brady and Mrs. Holt is for this program to eventually be 100 percent student-led with only faculty sponsors. "We know that the international students will receive more help from students who know the PCA process and culture," Mrs. Brady said. "Students connect with other students." There are student representatives for each grade 7-12. These are the students assisting the international students with their questions, concerns, and they also provide a tutoring program to help with writing an English paper as the international students often do not know appropriate sentence structure.

Jenny Brady (far right) and Alathea Holt (far left) with a group of PCA international students at a bowling event.



The goals of the ISP involve more than teaching the English language or where to find the grocery store. The ISP is ministering to these students with the intent of fulfilling the Great Commission. Many international students come to PCA looking for a cultural experience and leave experiencing the saving grace of Jesus Christ. That life change is taken back to their family and ultimately to their community; thus spreading the Truth to the corners of the earth. "A side affect of this ministry is that these students will return to their homes one day and will be able to 'influence their homes, churches and communities for Christ.' These students will reach people we wouldn't normally reach." stated Mrs. Brady.

Being a student isn't just about academic learning—it's also learning to have fun! ISP coordinates fun activities for international students and U.S. students so that they learn the American culture. The students have had dinner parties (where two international students learned they live in the same neighborhood!), gone shopping, and even learned how to bowl! Junior **Laura Hurd** is one of many students who are serving as partners to the international students. She said, "Participating in the ISP isn't a duty or a chore—I get to hang out with really great students and make new friends! It's such a blessing to be able to spend my time with such incredible people with interesting stories."

International student, **BoMin Kim**, received the honor of being nominated to the PCA Homecoming Court. When asked about how she prepared for homecoming, BoMin said, "I didn't know what to do for homecoming. Mrs. Laura Beth Hurd and Laura took me shopping and helped me pick out my homecoming dress and Mr. Steve Lee even escorted me during the halftime homecoming presentation."



Upper School Teacher Steve Lee escorted Junior and international student BoMin Kim on the 2009 PCA Homecoming Court.

The students and staff in ISP were the ones who helped explain the tradition of homecoming and what an honor it was for her fellow students to choose her for the court. And the irony of teaching BoMin about the American tradition of homecoming—she taught us about the Korean culture by wearing a beautiful traditional Korean dress.

**“These students will reach people for Christ we wouldn't normally reach!”**  
— JENNY BRADY,  
PCA DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY

### ISP Program Goals:

- 1 Minister with the goal of salvation for all students, families and communities affected.
- 2 Minister through helping students become better acquainted with the American and PCA culture.
- 3 Provide opportunities for mutual, cultural education between both the PCA faculty and students and the international students.
- 4 Equip the international students to be ministers in their own homes and international communities, thereby helping fulfill the Great Commission.

# Fine Arts

## the making of a PCA play

The lights are dim. The audience quietly mums as **PCABills** are passed out and ushers assist as seats are found. Behind the scenes, student actors ready themselves to take the stage while the student “black brigade” ensures that every prop and detail is in place. Then, it happens. The curtain parts in anticipation of another fall performance by PCA’s Fine Arts department theatre students. Another outstanding student-led production ensues under the direction of PCA theatre instructor, **Ms. Pam Hurt**, and Fine Arts Director **Joel T. Rutherford**. The final bows are taken and the audience leaves entertained and in awe, but many don’t know how it all happened. How it all came together. How the words of a script were transformed into a professional-quality play on the stage of the Eisemann Center through the use of God-given student talent, parental support and faculty instruction. If you’ve ever wondered how student-led productions could reach such heights of theatrical professionalism or thought it simply came easily, here’s what happens in the making of a PCA play.

After Fine Arts faculty selects a play for performance in the fall, it’s time for student work to begin. PCA theatre students are given the great opportunity by Ms. Hurt and Mr. Rutherford to learn the ins-and-outs of all aspects of theatre production through their participation. By the time a theatre student who is interested in pursuing a career in theatre leaves PCA, they have had the chance to be a part of all elements of a production.

In early fall, students audition in an open casting call, receive callbacks and a student cast and crew of almost 75 is assembled. Actors begin learning lines, gaining direction into their character and performance during the weeks of nearly daily rehearsals after school and on weekends that lead up to the November performance.



“Our students take their roles on stage very seriously,” said Mr. Rutherford. “There is a great and growing tradition of excellence in this area of our Fine Arts program, and with each year that passes, the students feel the weight of carrying on that very proud tradition of excellence.”

The design of the play’s set is determined and is constructed off-site by hours of student-actor manpower and then transported piece-by-piece by students into place at the theatre. All actors participate in set construction.

The important technical aspects such as lighting and audio are considered and finalized. Student publicity teams take on promotion art for the play poster and **PCABill** ad sales in order to elevate awareness and promote ticket sales. Parents are mobilized to assist students in being successful by helping Ms. Hurt oversee food service for every rehearsal and performance, **PCABill** production and other behind-the-scenes needs such as show costume quick-changes or obtaining props.

The all-important student “black brigade” team, as they are known because of their work on and off stage to pull off a play, readies for every behind-the-scenes detail to ensure that the actors have what is needed during every act, every scene. Additionally, students get busy planning and designing costumes, makeup and hair for the actors based on character interpretation under the direction of faculty and parents.

Some PCA productions, such as William Shakespeare’s “Romeo + Juliet,” require a unique set of acting skills, such as theatre combat. Theatre combat enables actors to portray confrontational physical scenes necessary to the play’s storyline without actually causing actors to be hurt. Under the direction of PCA’s Technical Director **Stewart Stevens**, who is professionally certified in many variations of combat theatre, student-actors have the opportunity to learn how to correctly act out fighting and contentious physical scenes safely, while appearing real to the audience. Theatre combat is unique and professional training in this type of theatre technique is distinctive to PCA productions, when it is integral to making the story real to the audience.

“Theatre combat is very important for a play like this year’s ‘Romeo + Juliet’ and we are blessed to have Stewart Stevens on staff and assisting with combat choreography for this production,” said Mr. Rutherford. “Stewart has extensive training and certifications in this area of theatre.”

This year, we ended up with a number of kids interested in some of the behind-the-scenes elements of show production,” said Mr. Rutherford. “It’s wonderful for us to get to work with these kids in this way and it gives them this great opportunity to own major aspects of the production. We are trying to grow this area of our program.”

“Additionally, God has uniquely blessed PCA with a gifted director in Pam Hurt,” said Mr. Rutherford. “She is gifted in many ways and has a great vision when it comes to putting a show together. Equally important is her ability to relate to students and volunteers. She imparts life skills to these kids that they will take with them for years to come.”

Once the lights fade to black and the audience exits the theatre, PCA students then begin removing the set, recycling what can be reused and trashing the remainder. Students return all costumes and props neatly back to the PCA theatre room to serve another actor, another audience, another day.

**It’s all what goes into the making of a PCA play.**



### Top in the State!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL CHOIR STUDENTS who competed in the TPSMEA vocal competition. Six Middle School students made the top 25 in the state: **Chelsea Irvin** (#1 soprano), **Adrianna Banzhof** (#5 soprano), **Kendall Brewer** (#9 soprano), **Nikki Chenoweth** (#7 alto), **Natassia Diggs** (#10 alto) and **Callie Bishop** (#15 alto). The following Upper School students also made it to the top of the state: **Emily Coles**, **Lindsay Jones**, **Hannah McKinney**, **Kristen Miller**, **Kate Morgan** and **Will Thomas**.

# student ambassadors



When a prospective family visits PCA, they are often greeted by a student ambassador. As part of the Student Leadership Institute program, ambassadors make themselves available to answer questions from prospective parents, conduct campus tours, and host visiting students. They act as a welcoming committee to new students and volunteer their time to ensure prospective parents and students get a first-hand glimpse at PCA. Three ambassadors were asked a few questions about why they take the time to do this for their school.

## **matt cassady,** AMBASSADOR CAPTAIN

**Q Why did you become a PCA student ambassador?**  
**A** I became a student ambassador because I wanted to help show prospective students and parents all that PCA has to offer so they would decide to come to PCA to have access to all the wonderful opportunities I have had.

**Q What is your favorite thing about PCA?**  
**A** My favorite thing about PCA is the fact that I am able to have both a wonderful Christian education and great friends.

**Q How is PCA preparing you for life?**  
**A** PCA is helping me by keeping me busy and teaching me to lean on God so I will be able to deal with the pressures of life while having a firm foundation in Him.

## **lindsey lederer,** AMBASSADOR CAPTAIN

**Q Why did you become a PCA student ambassador?**  
**A** PCA has been my favorite school that I have attended, and I became a student ambassador because I now have the opportunity to express my love of PCA to all prospective students.

**Q What is your favorite thing about PCA?**  
**A** Academically, I enjoy the student-to-teacher ratio at PCA. Because of the small class sizes, I get a lot of attention from the teachers, and they are always willing to help me outside of school. My most favorite thing about PCA, though, would have to be the fine arts! PCA offers so many co-curricular activities for students to get involved in.

**Q Do you have a favorite memory from being an ambassador?**  
**A** My favorite memory from being an ambassador is when **Mrs. Sharron Shaw**, Senior Director of Admissions, took us all to Parker Uniforms to get our ambassador blazers. I love wearing them when I give prospective families tours around the school.

**Q How is PCA preparing you for life?**  
**A** PCA is preparing me for life both academically and spiritually. The students who go to PCA receive a rigorous education that prepares them for college. More importantly, through chapels, SLi and Bible classes, students graduate from PCA knowing what they believe. We are equipped to defend Christianity and be familiar with

the issues around the world. This knowledge will ease the transition to college life.

## **mandi chamberlin,** AMBASSADOR CAPTAIN

**Q What is your favorite thing about PCA?**  
**A** My favorite thing about PCA would have to be the relationships formed. The PCA students really form relationships with the teachers and staff beyond the typical teacher-student relationship. Everyone is involved in each other's life. I really think that if I had a problem, I would have more people to turn to and get advice from here at PCA than somewhere else.

**Q How is PCA preparing you for life?**  
**A** At PCA, we don't just learn about the things we need to help us pass the ACT or SAT. As Christians, we learn about the questions we will be asked beyond high school and how to answer those questions. One of the biggest things is we learn how to respond to the objections of Christianity which will help us stay strong in our faith when we go to college.

# counter culture **SHOCK**

by Dan Panetti, PCA Worldview Director



## Bullying from a Biblical Perspective

There is always one in a crowd – a bully. A person who, for a time, is bigger, stronger, smarter, or richer than others and who uses that particular strength not merely to their own advantage, but also to the detriment of others. The Bible gives great insight into the concept of strength and power and how that tool is to be used by those who possess it. Scripture is filled with examples of those who misused their God-given talents: Goliath misused this strength; the rich fool in Luke 12 misused his wealth. There are also examples of those who used their talents wisely: the parable of the Good Samaritan who used his wealth to provide for the downtrodden; Samson used his strength to fight evil and protect God's people; and Joshua used his insight to provide for others in a time of great need and famine.

Of course the greatest example is Jesus himself – who used his strength to protect the innocent, his power to battle evil, his life to destroy death. Romans 15:1 reminds us that “we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak.” Psalm 41 says, “Blessed is he who has regard for the weak.” If you have strength, use it to protect the weak and the innocent; if wealth, use it to provide for those in need; if power, use it to fight against injustice.

God gives us strength to use for His glory. For further discussion: read about David's Mighty Men (2 Samuel 23) or from author Irene Howat's outstanding series *Ten Boys Who Made a Difference* (there are books for girls, too).



## Twilight Shadows the Great Love Story

The love story of young Bella Swan with the forever 17-year-old vampire Edward Cullen has captured the imagination of this generation. The four books of the *Twilight* series coupled with two blockbuster movies have pushed sales into the hundreds of millions of dollars making this a hard story to ignore. So what's all the fuss about?

I believe that our culture is hungry for this passionate love story because they see so little of genuine love today – and that is only to our shame and dismay. Edward Cullen is a faint reflection of history's greatest lover, Jesus Christ, who removes from his own our heart of stone and replaces it with a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26), just the opposite of what Edward offers to Bella! But the results are the same – without our true love, we are dead, lost, miserable. Bella found her true identity in the love of Edward – and we find our true selves in the love of Christ.

Of course we must remember that Edward is a vampire and the nature of the bond between Edward and Bella is an intense relationship. Song of Solomon warns us “not to arouse or awaken love” before its time – we must be discerning about what is age appropriate. And if you worry about the “blood and gore” related to the vampire theme, just know that these aren't traditional Hollywood vampires.

I will be hosting a parent book discussion on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to discuss the major themes of the book from a biblical worldview. Please make plans to join us for this discussion. RSVP at [DPanetti@PrestonwoodChristian.org](mailto:DPanetti@PrestonwoodChristian.org) to attend.

# Athletics

## A FALL OF VICTORIES

Football, volleyball, drill team, spirit cheerleading, competitive cheerleading, cross country, sports medicine: fall sports at PCA bring high-intensity, adrenaline-pumping games for fans. Students and coaches have experienced a season of victories—not just in games won—but also in characters built and teams unified. As final competitions are held at press time, the athletes are being put to the test in the arena of physicality and sportsmanship. Students, parents and coaches shared what this season and their team mean to them.



“ The PCA coaching staff clearly puts Jesus Christ at the top of our athletes' priority list. From a parent's perspective, it is so encouraging to know that your child is exposed to such a constant reminder of what is THE most important aspect of life. ”

— STACY STANDRIDGE, PCA PARENT

“ Sports medicine has been inspiring to me because it has taught me how to help and care for others while having a great time! Doc [Dr. Danny Nafey, PCA Athletic Trainer] has inspired me to become an athletic trainer. ”

— AMANDA PHILLIPS, SENIOR



“ The greatest thing about drill team this season was watching the most successful year of the drill team program PCA has ever seen being built right in front of my eyes. Not only that but being able to be a part of the process. The moments I've spent with the girls on this team are the moments I'll look back on and never forget. ”

— ASHLEY FELDT, JUNIOR



“ The Competitive Cheerleading team participated in a cheer competition at the new Cowboy Stadium and came home with a Spirit Celebration Division Championship and received the High Point honor over all. I am so proud of the girls' hard work! ”

— KRISTA ORR, CHEERLEADING DIRECTOR



“ My coach inspires me to do my best, not only in athletics, but also in life situations. He inspires me to compete with integrity and is always an encouragement! ”

— KATHRYN HEASLEY, SENIOR

“ Cheerleading has been inspiring to me because of the special bonds I've formed with my teammates. My coaches inspire me to try my absolute best in everything I do and to show compassion and love to others. ”

— HANNAH RAY, SENIOR



“ As a coach, the most important thing I can do for my players is show them the importance of being Godly young ladies. If we finish the season successful in volleyball but not in our Christian lives, then I have failed them as a coach. ”

— BECKY O'NEAL  
VARSITY VOLLEYBALL COACH

**RAISING UP TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN THE MARKETPLACE.** While it may be difficult for a Lower School parent to easily imagine the day when their student will graduate from PCA, enter college, and eventually the marketplace, PCA students exit PCA as prepared and focused leaders.

In 2008-09, PCA students received college acceptances from more than 150 colleges and universities, including four Ivy League acceptances. Nearly 100 percent of all PCA students have matriculated to more than 130 major colleges and universities. More than \$12 million dollars in scholarships has been awarded to PCA graduates in the past three years. PCA's intentional academic program contributed to these successes.

"I recently met with a group of PCA alumni who are currently walking the halls of major universities in the Northeast and they were consistently telling me how prepared PCA had made them for college," said Head of School **Larry Taylor**. "They tell me they are able to out-perform many of their peers due to the academic rigor they received at PCA."

PCA alumni stretch the globe as they use their PCA education to touch others in the marketplace with their minds and their Christ-like character. "What I learned in and out of the classroom I applied each and every day at college from conversations I had with others, to often feeling slightly ahead of my peers in understanding many subjects," said Liz Allbright, Texas A&M graduate and PCA '05.

**SUMMING IT ALL UP.** Everything that happens in a PCA classroom is summed up by the words of the mission statement to "strive for academic excellence." It's that determination to make academic success attainable for all students that drive the best faculty in the country to help students excel. It's that emphasis that parents can rely on to touch the lives of their students into adulthood.

"My husband, Chris, and I truly appreciate the value and importance placed on developing the partnership between PCA and its parents," added Mrs. Waddell.

Academic excellence at PCA occurs in the classroom and extends its affect to the home, church and community. It's truly affecting the world one student at a time.

in closing

...*Strive for Academic Excellence*...



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Lindsay Pyle, Pre-Kindergarten 3, and her sister, Ashley Pyle, PCA '08 and sophomore at Texas Tech.



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For more information, please contact Ron Meador at 972-820-5157 or [rmeador@prestonwoodchristian.org](mailto:rmeador@prestonwoodchristian.org).

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