



Portland Christian School

QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SINCE 1924

*...of Good Report
Summer Edition 2015*



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...of Good Report

Philippians 4:8 (ASV)

The True Measure of a Great Education

On May 19 we were treated to an extraordinary chapel service. The worship band, composed largely of seniors, led us in worship. Then in succession, three senior boys spoke to us about relationships. Matt McClellan challenged us to put down masks that prevent us from being real before God and each other. Trevor Fields encouraged the underclassmen to take advantage of every opportunity to get to know each of their classmates. Ethan Landers shared his testimony of how he came to have a real relationship with Jesus instead of just doing the right things.

Then Lee Meredith walked to the podium. He was wearing shorts and a t-shirt and as he turned to address his peers he said, "I know, I'm not in dress code." He didn't explain why but instead told us his story: "I entered Portland Christian School in kindergarten and was a student here except for one semester during my freshman year," he began, "I learned a lot about God, the Bible and all those spiritual things, but I never fully gave my life to God."



*Lee Meredith
graduating with
high honors on
May 29*

Lee was a good student, doing well academically, actively participating in school life and living a good life. But he admitted that he was living for himself. Over time he began to feel a growing emptiness, and by December of his senior year he was overwhelmed by loneliness and depression. It was while he was at this low point that he turned to God and fully committed his life to Christ.



Dr. Mackey baptizing Lee during senior chapel

"What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

Then Lee explained why he was out of dress code. He had approached the school leadership weeks before and had asked to be baptized during senior chapel. So there, on Tuesday morning, May 19, 2015, thirteen years after he had begun his PCS journey, Lee was baptized into Christ Jesus.

(continued on page 5)

PCS Students Take Top Honors in ACSI Academic Events

Portland Christian students from grades 3 through 12 participated in various ACSI academic events this past year. They brought home honors which reflected their outstanding work.

Creative Writing

The following students sent poems and short stories to the ACSI Creative Writing competition and received Excellent or Good marks: Caden Tucker, Madelyn Leenerts , Madelynn Sutherland , Bailey Haynes , Ethan Heid , Chase Bivens , Mackenzie Childers , Mary Kate Crowe , Anamaria Matassaru, Makenzie McCormick, Kelsey Rogers, Sydney Haynes, Ruth Dyer, Kristin Lewter, Lindsey Siegel, Mady Williams, Matthew McClellan, Jacob Ryan, and Emma Steele.

Two of our students – Ella Jewell (4th grade) and Sydney Gregory (10th grade) – received Superior ratings and their pieces went on to compete for publication in the ACSI writer’s booklet. Sydney’s piece was among the select few chosen to be included in the publication. Well done, Sydney! Congratulations to all!

Math Olympics by Mail

The following students received ribbons for their work in the math competition: Corina Matassaru, Kyler Sites, Matthew Goul, Kyndall Mackey, Tess Hart, and Chase Bivens. Taylor Mulvey (7th grade) placed first in her category.

ACSI Science Fair



PCS did exceptionally well in the ACSI Regional Science Fair. Several students received blue ribbons, including Ellie Heid, Ella Kate Porter, Kyndall Mackey, Elli Perkins, Anamaria Matassaru, and Sami Perkins.

In addition to blue ribbons, the following students also received the Judge’s Choice medals for their grade level: 4th graders Ethan Ferry and Ruby Heid, 6th graders Cora Fields and Ethan Heid, and 8th graders Mackenzie Childers and Makenzie McCormick. Congratulations to all!

We are very proud of all of these students and the extra work they put into making their projects outstanding. We are also appreciative of the teachers that put in extra hours to assist them! Congratulations to all and Glory be to God!

Sixth Graders Win Prizes for Essays About the American Flag

This past year our sixth grade students participated in an event sponsored by the American Legion. They wrote essays about what the American flag meant to them. Kyndall Mackey received a gold medal and cash prize, and Mason Skees received a silver medal and cash prize.

PCS Elementary Students Serve Locally and Internationally

This year the elementary students worked on several missions and outreach projects. Each year our high school National Honor Society run a drive to collect clothing for a mission called Klothe-a-Kid (www.klothe-a-kid.com). Our elementary students really got into the drive and collected many boxes of clothing. Thanks to the PCS family for all of your support!

They also collected funds for the Humane Society, assisted three food kitchens in providing meals to those in need, and collected money to help support the high school mission team for their trip to Nicaragua this summer, and helped several families going to serve the Lord in Haiti. They were also able to provide water filters and buckets through the collection of used shoes for an organization called Water Step (waterstep.org), and they continue to collect soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. In addition to these collection projects, the sixth graders include the residents of the Springhurst Senior Living facility to join in their annual High Tea each year.

Our elementary students are taught early to be like Jesus by seeking ways to serve their family, community, the world, and even our four-legged friends.

High School Drama Team Drafts Elementary Players

This past spring the high school drama department put on an interactive mini-drama titled Briar Rose for our elementary students. The players chose students from the audience to participate in the production. The high school actors did an excellent job and our elementary students are already looking forward to another production next spring.



Alumni Happenings

Alumni Banquet 2015



Danny Taylor ('67), shown here with his wife Cathy ('70)

Food, fun and fellowship were the benefits received by those who attended the PCS Alumni banquet on Saturday, April 25th at Huber's Family Farm. Earl C. Mullins, Jr. presided over the evening's program with his typical wit and winsomeness. Steve Hill (posthumously) received the Distinguished Alumni in Christian Service Award, Danny Taylor received the PCS Distinguished Alumni Award, and Estelle Moody was made an Honorary Alumna.

The Class of 2015 were inducted into the Alumni Association, after which Senior Class President, Camrin Kenney, gave the following remarks:

"I would like to begin by saying that it is a huge honor for me to speak today on behalf of a class filled with fantastic young adults. We have all worked very hard to get to this point. The alumni association has provided many things that have benefitted the school over the years. The members have enhanced the physical appearance of the school through hard work and servants' hearts. They have made sure that every student that walks through those doors in the morning is met with an overwhelming feeling of joy and is treated like family, because that is what Portland Christian School is: a family. Whether you have attended Portland since kindergarten or only for your senior year, every student leaves Portland knowing that the bonds they have made with classmates, teachers, and faculty will continue to grow throughout the rest of their lives.

Not only do you get a high quality education, but you have people around you who are excited to help you grow spiritually as well



Ashley Hill Carpenter and Aaron Hill accepted the Distinguished Alumni in Christian Service Award on behalf of their father, Steve Hill ('75).

It will be a huge blessing to graduate from Portland. Not only do you get a high quality education, but you have people around you who are excited to help you grow spiritually as well.... Each member has been blessed with the gift of a servant's heart. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." So this plaque that we have received is not just a plaque stating that we are now Portland Christian alumni, but it should be a daily reminder to us to serve others like all of you have done so generously.



Senior Class President, Camrin Kenney, delivering his remarks.



Seniors Neil Brangers and Lee Merideth show off their PCS Alumni Association plaques



Seniors receiving their plaques

This year's chapel theme revolves around connection, getting connected to the Father. One of the best things about tonight is that many people get to reconnect with people they haven't seen in years. Old friendships get revived and new friendships get created. But perhaps the best thing about tonight is that many of us have experienced the same emotions. We've experienced happiness after getting a good grade on a test, exhilaration after winning a basketball, volleyball, softball, or baseball game. We have experienced disappointment with a lost game, or a bad grade, and we have ALL experienced that anxiety you get at midnight

(continued from page 4)

the night before the senior paper is due. But the one thing that you all have experienced, but we have not yet, is the feeling of being called a graduate of the greatest and most God loving school that I know of. Thank you for all of your hard work and I pray that we can benefit the association in as many ways as possible. Thank you and God bless."



PCHS Class of '65 Celebrates Their 50th

The PCHS class of '65 held our 50th reunion in the Portland campus cafeteria on April 24, 2015 and continued our time together at the Alumni Banquet the next evening. We had a wonderful time reminiscing, looking at old pictures and memorabilia, and catching up with what everyone has been doing for the past fifty years as well as meeting several spouses. The members of the class who were able to attend were (l to r) Dorothy Hardison Smith, Rhoda Edens Perozzi, Jo Humphrey Johnson, Nancy Allen Clemmons, Virginia Eadens Ralph, Mike Sheehan, Dennis Schrader, and Cary Freeman Butler.

(continued from page 1)

The True Measure of a Great Education

How do you best measure the quality of an education? Is it through test scores? Is it by a student's GPA (grade point average)? Is it by their progress in academics or their ability to apply knowledge in the real world? What is the baseline against which we should measure a good education?

The Bible clearly speaks to this. Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10 tell us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and wisdom. Mark 6:38 says, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?" Tests, GPA and other measures have their place in defining the quality of an education. But God's Word clearly shows us that a real education must begin with and be based upon one's relationship with our Creator.

Portland Christian School has some students that rank in the top 1% nationally and others that struggle academically. We seek to serve them all as well as possible. Judging by test scores, GPAs, and the success of our graduates in college and their careers, we are doing well in teaching academics. In the end, however, we believe that the best measure of our success is how much our students grow spiritually. And by that standard we see evidence that God is using PCS to give our students the spiritual foundation they need. We saw it in our seniors who just graduated, but we also witnessed it across grade levels. PCS Executive Director, Jodell Seay, said that during this past school year three students expressed their desire to commit their life to Christ in her office. In this we rejoice, for as our PCS crest states, "Christ is our life" and the true measure of the quality of our education.

Snapshots of the Westport Campus

The Westport Road campus that God has given to Portland Christian School is a treasure! From the park-like grounds to the beautiful stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, we have been blessed with beautiful surroundings. Since many of you have never had the privilege of visiting us here, we hope these snapshots of various parts of the campus will give you some idea of where we get to study, play and work.





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Thanks to the Class of 1965

While celebrating their 50th reunion at PCS in April, the Class of 1965 decided to bless the school again. Many thanks to members of the Class of 1965 who have donated several thousand dollars towards the purchase of iPads for the school's continued implementation of our technology plan. It is the administration's goal to have iPads and laptops accessible to every student within the next few years, and we are deeply grateful to these gifts which will help us reach this goal.

PCS Nicaragua Mission Team

Their goal is big, but their God is bigger! On June 30th twelve PCS students (including recent graduates) and two adults will travel to Nicaragua. They will be teaming up with Youth With A Mission (YWAM) and a local ministry to go door-to-door in the city of Mesatepa as part of an effort to place a bible in every home in Nicaragua. Some of those in this PCS group did this same ministry in Mesatepa last summer as well and so will have the joy of continuing the mission. The team will also be helping to put on VBS-type ministries and will be involved in evangelism in local parks. Please pray that God will protect and empower them, draw them together in unity as a team, and use them as His vessels to reach many for Christ. They will return to Louisville on July 8th.

Team members:

BettyAnn Schreiner (Team Leader), Emily Knopp (Assistant Team Leader, PCS Graduate), Neil Brangers, Sarah Cantrell, Sydney Haynes, Morgan Idleman, Elaina Knopp, Ashlee Lewis, Nick Merante, Lee Merideth, Justin Morris, Gavin Pavey, Madison Skees, Mady Williams.

