

CYPRESS CHRISTIAN

ISSUE 21 / 2013 - 2014

CONNECTION

Academic Excellence | Biblical Values | Cultural Impact



CypressChristian.org
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K-12 Admissions
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*“Let the
Word of
Christ dwell
in you richly
as you teach
and admonish
one another
with all
wisdom...”
Colossians 3:16*

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CALLED TO EXCELLENCE

In reference to the biblical admonition to “be holy, for I am holy,”¹ I heard one person pose the rhetorical question: “Do you really think God would ever call us to do less?” In other words, can you imagine God commanding us to “be mediocre” in our activities or in areas of morality to “be fairly good – but a little sin is fine”? Of course not. Even as members of the fallen human race, our minds instinctively know that a perfect God wants nothing less than perfection for and from His creation. As the sun rises each morning and illuminates the entire earth, so this call to excellence shines on every part of our lives. God sovereignly lays claim to not only the industry of our hands, but also to the thoughts of our mind and the intents of our heart. In all we do, think, or say, we are called to excellence.

At this point, we must acknowledge the obvious tension between what ought to be and what really is. We are commanded, and in our right minds we sincerely desire, to fulfill the sovereign call to holiness and excellence in all things. However, our experience is that individually and collectively we often fail, and we often fail in quite miserable ways. This seems to give rise to at least two questions. If

God knew that this would be the reality of the world, then why would He issue such a command and high standard? Also, if our experience seems to confirm a consistent inability to achieve this high standard, why should we keep trying? I know that volumes could be written concerning good, valuable, and true responses to these questions. However, I will offer just two simple propositions in answer to these questions.

First, by challenging us to strive for excellence and perfection in our lives, our Creator wisely keeps our focus in the direction that will lead to our greatest fulfillment and joy. Through common experience, most of us can recall a time when even though we failed to reach a desired goal, the mere attempt made us better and stronger than we would have been had we never tried at all. It is not hard to imagine that in a similar way, God’s command of holiness and perfection benevolently works in our lives to help us develop in the right ways even when we find ourselves falling short of the ultimate mark.



FROM THE Executive Director STEPHEN NOVOTNY

Second, in this life that is often full of sadness, failure, pain, evil, and disappointment, one could get lost in the gloom of the tragic human condition and despair that this is all that exists and that there is nothing better that we can look forward to. Through this seeming hopelessness, like a lightning bolt in the night, God's command for holiness and excellence reminds us that there are other things – things that are high, beautiful, powerful and pure. Indeed, God's command points us to our need to find the One who can forgive our failures, deliver us from where we are, and in the fullness of time bring us to where we ought to be. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."²

At Cypress Christian School, we affirm that all are called to excellence. We commit each day to reach for that high mark. We claim the promise that we are forgiven when we fail. We persevere despite our failures. And we believe that through Jesus Christ we will one day enjoy eternal life in heaven where all things will be restored and made right.



God sovereignly
lays claim to not
only the industry
of our body,
but also to the
thoughts of our
mind and the
intents of our
heart. In all we
do, think, or say,
we are called to
excellence.

¹Leviticus 11:44

²Phillippians 1:6



I AM A
WARRIOR
ARE YOU?

ADMISSIONS EVENTS

2014 - 2015

Applications for the 2014-2015 school year
are now being accepted.

K-12 Previews

- Thursday, November 7, 2013
7:00 – 8:30 pm
- Monday, February 3, 2014
7:00 – 8:30 pm
- Monday, April 7, 2014
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Kindergarten Preview

- Thursday, January 23, 2014
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Sixth Grade Preview

- Tuesday, January 14, 2014
7:00 – 8:30 pm

Future Freshman Preview

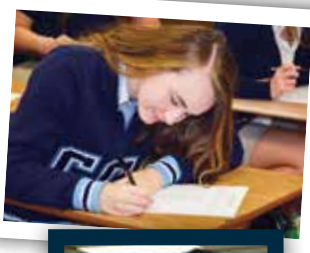
- Monday, November 18, 2013
7:00 – 8:30 pm

K-12 Student Visitor Days

- Tuesday, February 25, 2014
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
- Tuesday, April 22, 2014
9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Respect



HONOR
Unity
Endurance



LOVE OF LEARNING



Knowledge
Enthusiasm
Worship

Faith



Truth HUMILITY
FRIENDSHIP
Encouragement

Academic Excellence | Biblical Values | Cultural Impact
CypressChristian.org



The great teachers, biblical values, friendly students, technology, fine arts, and sports make CCS a great place to go to school!

It feels like home.

It's a great school because the teachers display Christ and share God's Word in multiple ways through their actions and words.

Recess, spelling, God, and lunch are my favorites.

The drama program has opened so many opportunities for me not only as an actor, but as a Christian.

CCS has a fun sports program and great learning environment.

I became a Christian at CCS!

I get to learn about God and Jesus.

I am encouraged to work hard and given the help I need to succeed. This school has had an amazing impact on me.

Bible and reading are fun!

The teachers really care about us. I love how they don't just teach subjects but they teach life!

Teachers are very supportive, always with you every step of your journey, praying and encouraging you, helping you reach your goals.

I love how we get the opportunity to openly talk about God and pray.

Everyone has welcomed me with open arms.

We are free to read the Bible and pray whenever we want.

I have great friends at CCS.

I can pray and school is fun!



CALLED TO EXCELLENCE

In my role as elementary principal, I meet with many concerned parents who are searching for just the right educational option for their children. These prospective parents bring with them a considerable number of questions. Many of them say things like, "I'm looking for a good Christian environment for my child. However, I'm concerned about the quality of the academics." It is almost as if in their mind the terms "academic excellence" and "biblical values" are contradictory.

I would argue that academic excellence is a necessary outcome of biblical values. The Bible clearly calls us to excellence. 1 Corinthians 10:31 states, "Whether therefore you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Notice the emphasis of Scripture upon bringing glory to God.

As Christians, we carry the name of Jesus Christ with us. Everything we do makes a statement about our God to a world that watches with a careful eye. Much harm has been

done to the name of Christ by those who claim Christianity yet live in a manner that is inconsistent with that claim. Do we properly represent our Savior when we are consistently late for work? Do we bring glory to our God when our work is done half-heartedly and in a sloppy manner? It is imperative for the Christian to do everything to the best of their ability so that God's name may be properly exalted.

As Christians we desire to know God better and to be like Him. There is much to be revealed about the person of God through His creation. God has given us an example of His excellence in His creation. The Scripture says, "The heavens are telling the glory of God!" God's creation is a testimony to His excellent character. What a delight to share with our students on a daily basis the excellent character of God in math, science, history, language, music, art, and physical education (to name a few). Certainly He has done all things well. Should we not follow His example? God is greatly pleased when He sees His children giving their best for Him.



FROM THE Elementary School Principal MR. ROBERT WHITE

The prophet Daniel in the Old Testament has given us an excellent example of striving for excellence. He was forcibly taken from his home and exiled to Babylon. He was selected for a three year program of study in the literature and language of the Chaldeans. Daniel could easily have entered a state of depression resulting from his circumstances. Rather than giving up, Daniel approached the task wholeheartedly, and at the end of his program was found ten times better than his peers. The Bible says that Daniel possessed an excellent spirit. It is so exciting to read the book of Daniel to see how this attitude of excellence allowed him to impact the entire world!

Here at the elementary school we continue to improve and to strive for excellence. Curriculum analysis, operational efficiencies, performance evaluations, academic meetings, and professional development are part of the CCS culture. Is it worth all of the effort? Absolutely! Our Savior certainly deserves the best!



What a delight
to share with
our students
on a daily basis
the excellent
character of God
in math, science,
history, language,
music, art, and
physical education
(to name a few).



*“For the
Lord is good
and His
love endures
forever; His
faithfulness
continues
through all
generations.”
Psalm 100:5*

Learning Phonics is Fun!

Kindergarteners started the year by learning short vowel sounds. They enjoyed learning through hands-on activities and special projects to complement A Beka lessons.

They also enjoyed a very special Umbrella Parade to celebrate the letter “u.” All four kindergarten classes paraded through the elementary hallways and out onto the playground with their umbrellas high in the air. As they marched, they made the short “u” sound.

Noah’s Ark was Longer than the CCS Football Field

Kindergarten teachers make the Bible come to life in their Bible classes through fun and realistic activities. Recently, kindergarteners enjoyed learning about Noah and his faithfulness to God. To get a better understanding of the size of the ark (which was 450 feet long and 75 feet wide), one class stood at each end of the Warrior football field, one class stood on the side, and one class stood in the middle. They couldn’t believe that the ark was even longer than the football field! Noah definitely didn’t build it in one day. They marveled at God’s perfect plans, and at His faithfulness to keep His promises.

Praying for the Nations

Elementary students were given the opportunity to participate in a service project through the Samaritan’s Purse organization. Each class assembled two boxes, one for a boy and one for a girl, which were sent overseas. This is a wonderful way for our students to help send the gospel message to a child in another country. Please join CCS students and teachers to pray for the children who received these gifts and for their families.



Can Raisins Really Dance?

Mrs. Miller's second grade science class learned about the scientific method and how to formulate a "hypothesis." Mrs. Miller challenged her students to hypothesize whether raisins would "dance" once they were placed in soda water. As part of the lesson, students observed what happened, wrote down their observations, came to a conclusion, and determined whether their guess was correct. They were so excited when their raisins started bobbing up and down and dancing! In addition, these young scientists learned that it's okay for your "guess" to be incorrect.

Strong Showing for the Warrior Welcome Contest

Warrior Welcome Mission Tours were heavily attended in the fall as featured elementary classes invited parents, grandparents, extended family members, pastors, friends, and neighbors to visit the CCS campus for a short tour and heartfelt presentation about the mission of Cypress Christian School.

The response was overwhelming as guests shared how they were blessed to be on campus and enjoyed a behind-the-scenes tour of K-12th grade students in action. Parent testimonies were well received as precious stories were shared with the tour groups.

Students enjoyed having their special guests on campus and enjoyed the competition to be the class with the most guests at a Warrior Welcome. Winning classes were rewarded with a pizza and ice-cream party.

SAVE the DATE! Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day February 7, 2014



**CCS Bible Teacher Danny Carraway
with his granddaughter, Brooklyn Kyrish,
a CCS first grader**



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF AMBASSADORS

Ambassadors are a hallmark of diplomacy: respected, influential individuals who serve as their country's representative abroad. The responsibilities of an ambassador are numerous and complicated – they must conduct themselves with decorum, understand the traditions of the country they serve in, and coordinate their government's presence in that nation. In II Corinthians 5:20 the Apostle Paul uses the title of ambassador to describe Christians: "we are ambassadors for Christ." What are the characteristics of an excellent ambassador? I would like to suggest three qualities that are cultivated each day at CCS: knowledge, wisdom and character.

To be effective ambassadors for Christ, we must be knowledgeable about both the world and God. Without knowledge, Christians have no means to communicate to the world and no means to distinguish the ideas of the world from the ideas of God. Colossians 2:8 warns us, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception according to the tradition of men."

Students in the middle school at CCS pursue knowledge in many arenas. They learn about the past: ancient cultures, the Founding Fathers, great leaders of Texas. In science students explore the scientific method, the details of a cell, and the intricacies of molecules. During grades 6-8 students begin their pursuit of algebra and geometry. Students learn to critically examine what they read and then to write about and support that analysis. However, each day at Cypress Christian every student also has the profound opportunity to learn more about God and His Word. In sixth grade boys and girls begin to understand that being in relationship with God through Jesus impacts their behavior, values and worldview. In seventh grade students explore what the Bible says about character traits such as faithfulness, obedience, attentiveness, friendship, and many more. During eighth grade students examine the character of God and man's relationship to God as they learn more about a biblical worldview in contrast to other worldviews.

Ambassadors must be wise. In order to be useful, an ambassador must have the ability to present Truth in an engaging manner. I Peter 3:15 speaks to this point: "...always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence." Young Warriors at CCS are challenged to hold every thought, action, decision, friendship, and conversation before the light of God's Truth. Christians are God's diplomats to the world; we must allow the Holy Spirit to guide all actions and thoughts to accurately reflect our Savior. Each communication should send a clear message to the unbeliever about the character of God. Teachers and administrators seek to guide middle schoolers to use the grid of God's Word to determine what is acceptable before God and edifying to others.



The character of an ambassador is critical for effectiveness. Those who do not know the nature of God or the Truth of the Bible will look to the ambassador to learn more about God. If we, as God's ambassadors, are not an honest reflection of our Heavenly Father, then we have misguided someone who needs to know Jesus. Middle school teachers seek to be humble and transparent as we interact with students. We want to model to them what it means to live a life worthy of the calling of God. We try to connect honestly with students who are developing their faith and learning to live it authentically before peers and the larger world. II Timothy 2:24-25 encourages believers to "...be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition." The world presses in with many false teachers whose character is selfish and duplicitous. We seek to develop young Warriors who, by their winsomeness and gentleness, will walk strong in their faith, but will also draw unbelievers toward a relationship with God.

To be an ambassador for the Kingdom is an awesome responsibility. We live in a foreign land, yet must represent our King. It is a wonderful opportunity to work daily with young teens who continue the pursuit of excellence as the next generation of ambassadors for Christ by exhibiting knowledge of the world and God's Word, demonstrating wisdom in their decision-making, and showing strength of character as they live lives sold-out to their Savior.

FROM THE Middle School Principal

MRS. IVA NELL RHEA



Without
knowledge,
Christians have
no means to
communicate to
the world and
no means to
distinguish the
ideas of the
world from the
ideas of God.



“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”
Colossians 3:17

Middle School Parent Night

Middle School Parent Night was a great event for parents of young adolescents entering grades six through eight. Executive Director Mr. Stephen Novotny opened the plenary session with words of encouragement and prayer. Mrs. Rhea, Middle School Principal, introduced new teachers to the room filled with parents. She provided information about the changes that parents can expect to see in their sons and daughters during the middle school years. She also shared some wisdom regarding keys to success in CCS middle school.

The parents walked through their child's daily schedule, spending seven minutes with the teacher of each class. Expectations, grade distribution, major objectives, and key projects were shared by teachers. The parents loved sitting in the student desks and revisited their own middle school experiences as the night progressed.

The partnership between teachers and parents is critical to the success of middle school students. The evening served to strengthen those bonds.

Seventh Graders Earn Duke Recognition

The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) recognizes outstanding performance in at least one specified area on standardized tests such as the Terra Nova, which is administered in the spring at CCS. The following students have qualified to participate in this highly-selective seventh grade honors program. We are thrilled by the opportunity that has been presented to these students based on academic ability. Our prayer is that God will be glorified through their endeavors as a Talent Search participant and in the future. Congratulations to the following students: Robert Adams, Britney Bailey, Sam Beckmeier, Amanda Boyd, Colby Cameron, Cory Chapman, John Dotson, Tucker Fredrickson, Sarah Hawkins, Jacob Hotchkiss, Nico Hoyos, Tanner James, McKayla Lira, JT Mounce, Emily Nicholson, Tanner Shanks, Sophia Slabic, Joshua Stewart, Lauren Storey, Evie Underwood, Garrett Velez, Ashley Whitsell, Grace Womack.

Viewing God's World through the Microscope

The seventh grade Life Science class started their study of the cell by first learning about the invention of the microscope. Then, students were able to experience the wonders of God's world by looking through microscopes at



different plant, animal, and protist slides. After viewing the slides, students drew and colored what they saw.

The eight different microscope stations included a diverse range of slides such as a fruit fly, “striated” skeletal muscle tissue, onion skin cells that clearly showed the cell nuclei, beautiful skeletons of the radiolarian plankton-type organisms, a feather, and a slide showing three types of mold that had them wondering if the “yellow” mold was really attacking the “green” mold!

It’s Just a Phase Science Lab

Mrs. Hinn’s eighth grade physical science students were introduced to the science lab experience by conducting an experiment entitled “It’s Just a Phase.” The purpose of the lab was to investigate the solid-liquid phase changes for an organic solid.

Each team of students was given an “unknown substance” for their experiment. Teams measured temperature versus time as the liquefied substance cooled into a solid and then measured again as the solid was reheated into a liquid. They graphed the data to develop “heating” and “cooling” curves and then used that data to identify the melting point of their substance. Students were then given the melting point of three different “known” substances. Using their melting point data, the students were then able to determine the identity of their “unknown” substance.

National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Membership in the CCS chapter of the National Junior Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Congratulations to the following middle school students who were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society this fall: John Ethan Baldwin, Lauren Beach, Madelynn Beckman, Gary Bittick, Ga Young Seo, Brooklyn Bretz, Victoria Davies, George Fereg, Gracen Fisk, Charles (Richard) Gay, Avery Gwyn, Josh Holl, Madison Kostak, Noah Lee, Catherine Perry, Isabel Pogson, Elliot Ranson, Scott Steinhauer, Allison Thompson, Caroline Wax, Julia Williams, Sierra Wilbur.





WARRIORS STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE

Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's handiwork. We are created in Christ Jesus to do the good works which God has laid before us. As high school students seek to fulfill this calling, they strive for excellence in everything they do, both in and out of the classroom. During my short time here at Cypress Christian, I have observed this very thing taking place.

It began in the summer when my own elementary-aged child participated in the Warrior football camp. He came home each day excitedly telling me about all the things he was learning and how much fun it was to have high school football players teaching him. Many high school athletes would find it annoying to work with younger students when they could be working to improve their own skills. More recently, the varsity cheerleaders patiently engaged elementary girls, teaching them

cheers and forming the Junior Pep Squad. These are just a few examples of how our high school students demonstrate God's love and fulfill His calling on their lives even amongst our youngest Warriors.

During the school day I have the privilege of watching the high school seniors interact and bond with each other. The senior class has the privilege of leaving campus for lunch on Tuesdays, and the students look forward to this special perk. However, several of our new seniors were unaware of this opportunity. It was a joy to see student after student approach a classmate, not wanting him to be left behind, and offer both a seat in their car and money from their pocket so this new Warrior could participate in this senior privilege. Seeing a classmate in need and striving to meet that need is an excellent way to do the good work God has laid before us.



FROM THE High School Principal DR. CHRISTOPHER WITSCHONKE

To see students working hard to accept the call God has laid before them, one only has to visit a high school classroom. The teachers challenge them to see how God used events from the Old Testament to point out who Christ was and how He could be seen in the New Testament. They are encouraged to consider what following the path God has laid out for them looks like versus simply choosing a career. They are shown ways in which the absolute laws of mathematics point to a single Creator rather than a man-made structure. They see evidence of God's movement throughout history, and they are given examples of how man tries to discount God in the writing of scientific precepts. Seeing these Warriors in action for only a few months makes me excited to see all the ways in which they may continue to rise to excellence and seek to fulfill all that God has laid before them.



Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's handiwork. As high school students seek to fulfill this calling, they strive for excellence in everything they do, both in and out of the classroom.



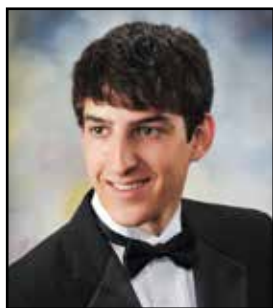
Hunter Vick



Katie Moore



Nathan Stockman



Joshua Gamble



Michael Boyd



Class of 2014

Seniors Receive National Recognition

Five CCS seniors received national recognition for showing exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Senior Hunter Vick was recognized as one of the approximately 16,000 Semifinalists (out of 1.5 million entrants) in the 59th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Hunter has an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,000 National Merit Scholarships worth approximately \$35 million that will be offered in the spring. Seniors Katie Moore, Nathan Stockman, and Joshua Gamble were recognized as Commended Students in the National Merit Scholarship Program. They were among more than two-thirds (about 34,000) of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT® that received a Letter of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Seniors Joshua Gamble and Michael Boyd were recognized as academically outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students by the National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP). Each year, the NHRP honors about 5,000 of the highest-scoring students from over 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the PSAT/NMSQT®.

Senior Retreat

The Class of 2014 traveled to Camp Allen for the annual Senior Retreat with the goal of building class unity, team work and life-long memories.

CCS English Teacher Mrs. Donna Lambert made this observation when she accompanied the group: "From a teacher's perspective, I felt blessed to watch the senior class as individuals transform into a family of strength, encouragement, and opportunity. Students who are normally introverted came to life as each became an integral part of a team, achieving a goal and meeting challenges. Watching students step out of their comfort zones and try new things, I saw character and self-confidence blossom. Many of the challenges on the ropes course required immense courage and often resulted in a little bit of panic, but the outcome was priceless. With reassurance from their peers and conviction within themselves, all students accomplished new and wonderful feats. Clearly, this opportunity for seniors to develop greater trust with each other and deepen friendships solidifies their bond as a class."



See You at the Pole



National Honor Society Members

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children
are walking in the truth."* 3 John 1:4

See You at the Pole

The CCS senior class hosted "See You at the Pole" for students and their families. Students of all ages, teachers, parents, and grandparents gathered at the flagpole on the football field. Seniors read the goals of CCS Warriors and then led small groups in prayer for our school, city, state, nation, and world.

A CCS Warrior AIMS for the mark of the high calling of God in thought, word, and action in order to positively impact the world for Jesus Christ.

- **A**ccepts the call to action
- **I**mproves to reach full mental, physical, and spiritual potential
- **M**eets challenges with determination
- **S**trives to move past failures and to press forward

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Membership in the CCS chapter of the National Honor Society is an honor bestowed upon deserving students by the faculty and based on the criteria of scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Congratulations to the following high school students who were inducted into the National Honor Society this fall:

Sophomores: Peter Achterkirch, Ashley Anderson, Hannah Braun, Jolie Carr, Jordon Coates, Michala Coffman, John Crozier, Amber Dingman, Colton Everitt, Emily Fredrickson, Nolan Galbreath, Elizabeth Gwyn, Jordan Hayley, Justin Hicks, Samantha Longridge, Emily Mahan, Miranda McAdams, Kylie Miller, Clayton Novotny, Timothy Odeyomi, Haley Otts, Daniel Overton, Dang Pham, Breanna Poncho, Alyssa Ramsey, Elyssa Ray, Kallie Rhea, Blake Roberts, Matthew Roberts, Cale Soudelier, James Tadrzak, Adam Thompson, Elizabeth Usry, Christian Vasquez

Juniors: Lauren Cater, Ryan Gibbs, Abigail Martinez, Dana Mickey

Seniors: Madison Farquhar, Blaise Fontenot, Blake Hoffman, John Steinhauer



*“Commit your works to the Lord, and your plans
will be established.” Proverbs 16:3*

As one thinks about Proverbs 16:3, it is apparent that God wants us to plan, not leave things to chance. “Commit” literally means to roll. Roll your plans on to the Lord. He will bear them and they will be established. Likewise, these plans should be excellent – reflecting the character of God and His creation. For an educational institution there is no more important plan than the curriculum – what students will learn and teachers will teach.

Developing curriculum must be undertaken locally to ensure curricula that fits the students’ needs in the school and reflects the mission of the school. Also, curriculum planning and development is an ongoing, labor-intensive process. The curricula must constantly correspond to change while anchored to the unchanging Truth of God’s Word. Curriculum development provides opportunities for professional educators to work together and to discuss the what, why and how of the teaching/learning process. Without this opportunity for discussion about curriculum, educators have no influence except on that which is practiced in their

individual classrooms. This often leads to disconnected learning and teaching between grade levels and courses. This is not good stewardship of time, talents and resources God has provided.

With this understanding of good stewardship, CCS has always been committed to developing an excellent curriculum. Time and resources have often made the process arduous. Gratefully, God has provided the resources to purchase state-of-the-art curriculum development software that is providing both time savings and accountability to the process. Over the last two years, teachers and administrators have been trained in its use. They now have a sense that the curriculum can truly be organized into a useful, efficient and effective plan that will enhance the delivery of excellent teaching and learning.

What once took weeks and months to complete can now be done in days. Revisions and updates can be made instantly. Communication among teachers, grade levels, and



FROM THE General Administrator DR. GLENN HOLZMAN

administrators is enhanced, ensuring that the curriculum is aligned and articulated throughout K-12. This simply means that overlaps and gaps have been eliminated between grade levels and courses so the precious commodity of time is used efficiently. In addition, this system allows the administration and department heads to constantly monitor curriculum delivery certifying the written, taught and test curriculum is aligned and communicated. It allows for unprecedented accountability.

Becoming a school of excellence – the best we can be by using every resource at our disposal – is a dynamic and challenging effort for Cypress Christian School. It is a labor born of love for the children and parents we minister to, the faculty and staff we employ, the community where we are located, and the Lord we serve. “That you may approve the things that are excellent” Philippians 1:10a.



For an
educational
institution there
is no more important
plan than the
curriculum –
what students
will learn and
teachers will teach.



Part of the responsibility of Cypress Christian, in partnership with parents, is to help our students develop biblical values that will translate into a biblical lifestyle.

Through Bible curriculum, prayer, chapel services, and community service projects, students are taught what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ and what that means for everyday life.

Biblical Values

Mrs. Van Pelt's first graders not only enjoy story time but can use the practical values taught. Her Warrior boys practice their role as men on the playground as well as in the classroom. Her Warrior ladies don't allow others to use unkind words and know a scripture to back that value up. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no unwholesome talk come out of your mouth but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."

Seventh grade students are studying what the Bible says about love and the difference between conditional and unconditional love. Teachers Rachael Lechman and Will Albers are driving home the knowledge that Christ loves each of their students. They are encouraging their students to explore practical ways to show love to others.

Ninth graders in Daniela Lazar's Bible class are learning about the importance of personal Bible study and personal

devotions. Ms. Lazar encourages each of her students to set aside time each day for personal quiet time with the Lord.

Bible teacher Danny Carraway is taking his students through the Old Testament. Beginning in the book of Genesis, he shows students how the thread of the gospel runs all the way from Genesis to Revelation. His goal is to teach the students what it means to have a relationship with Jesus Christ and what that means for everyday life. He sums it up by saying, "If Christianity is not practical, it's useless."

God, Guts and Grace

Tom Stevens joined us again this year in secondary chapel to talk about each student's relationship with God and how they can take that relationship with them wherever they go. Mr. Stevens, a CCS parent for 8 years, is a licensed professional counselor and also hosts an internet radio talk show on parenting and family issues.

In the three week series, Mr. Stevens used videos, music and stories to help students learn how to "walk the talk" and share their faith, no matter who they encounter. The first step is establishing a relationship with God, the second step is having the guts to share that relationship, and the final step is having the grace and compassion to love other people, no matter where they are in their faith walk.



The CCS Team: Julie and Zachary Cannon; Caroline, Steve, Will and Abby Young; Karen and Mike McGrath; Kim and Randy Moon; Lori Teague; Cristina, Mike, Sophia, Michael, and Alex Slabic; Jill and Ian Jones; Blake Andrews, Terri and Tess Welch

CCS Team for Haley's Miracle

A group of faculty, students and families participated in the 2013 Be The Match Walk+Run in honor of CCS seventh grade student Haley Cannon (at left). Haley is battling Hodgkin's Lymphoma and she received her miracle on July 9, 2013, in the form of a bone marrow transplant from a donor on the international registry.



The journey to that day is an incredible and inspiring story, because God had some amazing plans for Haley and her family. Haley's story was featured on ABC13 News. To view, abclocal.go.com/ktrk/video?id=9239527

CCS teacher Mrs. Caroline Young participated in the event: "I trained almost every day for ten weeks, and on September 14, I ran the 5K for Haley! It was a great feeling to cross the finish line for her. It was an even better feeling when I signed up for the Bone Marrow Donor Registry. There are so many people who are still waiting for their miracle in the form of a bone marrow donor. It is very easy to sign up. Anyone who is interested can go to BetheMatch.org for more information."



Kids Meals Program: Margo Underwood, Lisa Beckmeier, Nicholas Stevens, Braden Barbisch, Zach Cannon, Eve Underwood, Stephanie Petru, Garrett Velez, Sam Beckmeier, Bella Kraft, Avery Smith, Audrey Butler, Trey Underwood, Drew Smith, Anna Smith, Caroline Usry

One Less Hungry Tummy!

CCS students and parents worked alongside SAM's Club employees to prepare food for delivery to children who benefit from the Kids Meals Houston program. Our volunteers made over 1,200 ham sandwiches and packed them for the delivery of the day. CCS parent/volunteer Stephanie Petru commented: "I love how even the youngest of our CCS students was able to serve in this capacity as we strive to train them to honor the Lord through service to others."

CCS Students Help to Plant Churches

Nine CCS students and the school's Executive Director on mission in the Midwest assisted in the planting of new churches in southern Illinois. CCS students in this mission effort, organized by nearby Houston Northwest Church's youth ministry, helped in performing live concerts for youth and adults, putting on puppet shows for young children, distributing new church information and literature in door-to-door efforts throughout the local communities, and conducting VBS programs.



Church Planters: Gabbie DiGiacomo, Calvin Novotny, Blake Roberts, Winn McCoy, Clayton Novotny, CCS Executive Director Stephen Novotny; Daniel Overton, Abby Martinez, Ashley Milstead, HNW's Youth Pastor Jacob Phelps, and Blake Hoffman

Homecoming 2013







Varsity Football

The Warriors returned to the playoffs for the sixth straight season. Some tough early season losses are long forgotten as the Warriors won their last four district games to finish second in the district. The defense was unbelievable in district play giving up just 10 points over 5 games. The highlight was a shutout of Woodlands Christian on the road for a 12-0 victory. The Warriors once again made a strong showing by placing nine players on the All-District 1st team. The program had over 90 players in 6th – 12th grades this season that made up four full teams for the first time in school history. As is true with every season, it is really all about building men and the measure of true success will be what kind of men, husbands, and fathers they become in 10 to 15 years.



Middle School Football

The season came to a close as the Warriors defeated Woodlands Christian 22-8 to finish third in the District Tournament. The Warriors won the regular season title with a record of 6-0 but lost a heart breaker that came down to the wire in the playoffs. The B team finished the season with a 7-0 loss to Trinity Lutheran. Middle school football is always exciting because so much improvement throughout the season is evident and this year was no different.

Cross Country

The Cross Country team consists of eight active runners at the varsity level: Emily Fredrickson, Allison White, Sydney Crofton, Brenna Etherage, Brandon Landry, Ben Holman, Chris Geyer, and Johnny Steinhauser. Coach Elvira Hall reports that it was a great fall season for the team with each runner improving their time in each race. During the season, Emily earned a 17th place medal and Brandon brought home a 19th place award in local meets with both athletes significantly improving their time. Sydney made the most drastic improvement by decreasing her run time by three minutes in one meet, becoming the fastest girl on the team and finishing in state with a time of 14.53.1. Christopher earned 1st, 9th, and 10th place medals at local meets and came in #15 at the TAPPS State Competition with a time of 18.14.1. The team will train in the off-season for long distance track competition.





Lady Warriors Volleyball Bi-District Champs / Second in District

Varsity Volleyball Coach Rebecca Campbell, Assistant Coach John Van Rieg, and the Lady Warriors Varsity Volleyball Team claimed Hebrews 12:1 over their run in the playoffs. "Our job is to play in such a way that we 'run with perseverance the race marked out for us.' Wherever our season ends in our playoff run, I want everyone to say that we gave it all we had." This is what Coach Campbell told the girls before their first playoff game, and looking back on the season she knows that this is exactly what they did. "We were ranked higher in district than last year, moving from fourth to second place; and we made it deeper into playoffs this year. I consider that a successful season."

The Lady Warriors are a young team, only losing one senior, Katie Moore (#7). "Katie was a pivotal player on the team this season. But even more than the excellent volleyball skills she contributed to the team, she did what every senior needs to do – she left a legacy by taking the time to train up the younger players, both in their volleyball and leadership skills, so that each player on the team was made better because of her influence."

Warrior Cheerleaders

We've got spirit! How about you?



Go Warriors!





WARRIOR WAREHOUSE



Go, Warriors! The new CCS spirit store, Warrior Warehouse, is now open! It's located in the Operations Building (White House) and is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Warrior Warehouse items include spirit wear shirts and hoodies, logo bags, umbrellas, car shades, stadium blankets, baseball caps, visors, pompoms, temporary tattoos, eyeblacks, water bottles, koozies, hair accessories, Bibles, poster boards, pens, pencils and more!



Blue and White Night

CCS students, families, faculty, staff, and board members enjoyed a great night of fellowship at the annual Blue and White Night event. Families were given the opportunity to collect information on the many different programs at CCS, and most importantly, everyone gathered to dedicate the 2013-2014 school year to God! Journalism student Gabbie DiGiacomo wrote: "Warriors came together representing our school with Blue and White pride. We all united as one body, serving only one God."



Elementary Sports

The Smith family enjoyed the fall soccer season at CCS! "We had the best coaches that not only were able to teach our kids the game of soccer but were also Christian role models. Our children learned how to play, win, and lose with a happy heart. We also really enjoyed the fellowship with the other CCS families. Go, Little Warriors!"



Shown in photo l-r: Art Teacher Beth Brubaker, Choir Director David Horn, Fine Arts Coordinator Dia Moore, Art Teacher Greg Bretz, and Drama Teacher Blythe Kirkwood

Welcome New Fine Arts Faculty

We are pleased to announce the recent additions to the Fine Arts Department. Fine Arts Coordinator Mrs. Dia Moore will serve in this position and continue her role as the CCS Academic and Speech Team Sponsor. This is Mrs. Moore's third year serving on our fine arts faculty and her eighteenth year as a CCS parent. She holds a B.S. in Speech from The University of Texas at Austin as well as ACSI teacher certification. She has 17 years of experience coaching students for speech competitions and extensive experience in the production of plays and musicals.

Drama Teacher Mrs. Blythe Kirkwood holds a BFA in Musical Theatre from Sam Houston State University. She most recently served as the Head Theatre Director at Spring High School, and before that served as Theatre Director at Bailey Middle School in Spring ISD. At HITS Theatre, she served as Education Coordinator, teaching musical theatre classes and private voice.

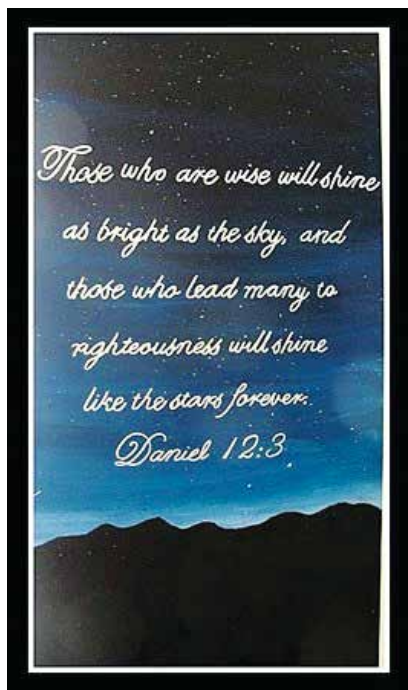
Secondary Art Teacher Mrs. Beth Brubaker or Ms. B, as her students like to call her, comes to CCS with 30 years of experience in teaching art at Christian schools and a B.S. in Art Education (All-level) from Baylor University. She has taught at museums and in workshops at state and national art conventions, and her solo art exhibitions have been featured at the Estel Gallery in Nashville, TN, the Community Gallery at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, several churches in the Houston area, as well as many web museums and art galleries around the world.

CCS is pleased to welcome back Choir Director David Horn and secondary Art Teacher Greg Bretz. For more information about our Fine Arts faculty, please visit CypressChristian.org/News/Welcome-New-Fine-Arts-Coordinator-and-Faculty.cfm.

Choir

Fall performances for our secondary choir students included the CCS Annual Banquet, a fall concert entitled, "A Cornucopia of Song," the Early Music Festival at the Texas Renaissance Festival, CCS Veterans Day Assembly, and various school and community events. Watch for competition news as our talented choir students bring home the awards once again this year.





"But now, O Lord, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we are all the work of Your hand." *Isaiah 64:8*

Art

Student Artwork Featured Online

Cypress Christian School is now a member of Artsonia, the largest online student art museum. CCS Art Teacher Beth Brubaker has uploaded hundreds of secondary student artworks from summer projects to works-in-progress to finished pieces. To view student artwork, visit Artsonia.com, type in the name of our school, and follow the directions to view one or more featured pieces of art.

The Tree of Life

The seventh and eighth grade Bible and Art Class (BART) took a journey to discover the Tree of Life and what the Bible has to say about the tree and its meaning from creation to Revelation. The artwork began on recycled paper shopping bags and was up-cycled – renewing the life of the tree with God's Word in the students' artwork. The process took students through the creation and foundation (the

roots of the tree) and where the first lie was told and the Truth that followed. Many changes took place to the tree through this process as the students focused on the seasons in life. The constant in life, though, is God's love and the fact that His Word remains unchanging.

Artists Paint at the Annual Banquet

Ten high school art students created original artwork at the Annual Banquet. Each original acrylic work of art depicted the message of Galatians 5:22-23 and the characteristics of "fruitful" living. Guests enjoyed watching the artists at work and by the end of the evening each piece of artwork had been auctioned off to a good home!

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."



Drama

Sixth Graders Present Musical Rendition of the Old Testament

The first quarter sixth grade Musical Theatre class delighted audiences with their performances of *The Old Testament Fast Forward*, by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The sixth graders presented a lively, musical rendition of the entire Old Testament. The shows were performed on the Drama Room stage in front of the beautiful "Old Testament" timeline backdrop created by CCS Art teacher, Mrs. Brubaker. Musical Theatre teachers Mrs. Kirkwood and Mr. Horn had a wonderful time directing this talented group of students, and they look forward to working with all the sixth graders this year.



Award Winning One Act Play

High school drama students recently completed a successful run of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, which included taking the show on the road for competition. The "Earnest" cast and crew brought home numerous awards from the TAPPS District contest, earning the distinction of winning more accolades than any other show.

€ Annual Banquet

Annual Banquet

Over 400 guests enjoyed the festivities at the CCS Annual Banquet. The event included the ever popular "Heads or Tails" game, an exciting live auction, a hilarious performance from comedian John Branyan, entertainment by Ben Jackson, beautiful music by secondary choir students directed by Mr. David Horn (see Fine Arts section), original artwork from high school art students offered in the silent auction (see Fine Arts section), and an address by Executive Director Stephen Novotny. Proceeds from the fundraiser support various Annual Fund projects (please see next page).

Thank you to our banquet
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Annual Fund

This was the scene on campus as the crew from BIG Enterprise poured the concrete for the new parking lot in front of the Field House. Owner Jim Boyd added a U.S. flag to the top of the concrete pump in honor of 9/11. The lot is now ready for visitors. We are thankful to our Annual Fund donors who made this project possible.



Annual Fund Goal: \$400,000

Cypress Christian School's Annual Fund is used to supplement tuition dollars and provide resources for improvements to school programming and facilities. As our school has been entrusted with increased student enrollment, we continue to take intentional steps to serve our families and our community with excellence.

Annual Fund dollars from the 2012-2013 school year were used to enhance our campus and programs including the addition of: a Weight Room under the Grandstands; Covered Walkways; Document Readers for Elementary; Remodel of White House; Addition of Secondary Classrooms and Staff Offices; Mobile Computer Labs; Relocation of Secondary Art Room; Remodel/Upgrade of Locker Rooms in Field House and Gym Locker Rooms; Additional Parking Areas; Security Lighting for Parking Areas; Fencing Along Warrior Way; Additional Outdoor and Hallway PA expansion; Teachers' Professional Development Fund; and Funding for Master Planning Studies.

Donate online at CypressChristian.org/Support/Donate. Your contributions are appreciated and tax deductible as allowed by law.

Some of the projects planned for the coming year include:

- Classroom Technology Upgrades
- Additional Electronic Gating
- Campus Safety and Security Upgrades
- Relocation & Construction of the Softball Field
- Elementary Play Area Improvements
- Multi-Use Facility Improvements
- Master Planning (Pre-Construction Requirements)
- School-wide Academic Programming
- Landscaping / Campus Beautification
- Teachers' Professional Development Fund
- Benevolence Scholarship Funding
- Tuition Assistance



HOMECOMING 2013

1A. CCS alumni came "home" to CCS in October! **1B.** Last year's Homecoming King **TRAVIS WILHITE ('13)** and Homecoming Queen **SHANNEN LONGRIDGE ('13)** crowned this year's Homecoming King **Tijani Mohammed** and Queen **Gabbie DiGiacomo** along with the help of CCS second graders **Sophia Swanton** and **Owen Witschonke**. **1C.** Thanks to our Alumni Guest Choir Director **NATALIE MOORE ('11)** and alumni choir members: **JOSIAH DALTON ('13)**, **BEN BENNETT ('12)**, **CHELSEA VINCENT ('11)**; and **LAUREN DAVIS ('12)**.



CCS Alumni Coaches

2. JOSH GRABER ('06): This fall, the CCS Varsity Football Coaching Staff included Alumnus **JOSH GRABER**. Head Coach Jacob Spenn commented: "I am excited that Josh has returned to CCS as a coach. He was a standout player as a quarterback at CCS and brings a passion for building godly men that is a great fit in our program. His responsibilities included overseeing the running backs and helping Coach Battles with the offensive line." Josh commented: "It's been a lot of fun being back on campus and getting involved with Cypress football again. I've learned a lot from Coach Spenn and the rest of the staff and the student-athletes have been great to work with." Josh also manages his own business – First Focus Marketing. He and his business partner have expanded services which now include: Web Design and Inbound Marketing which combines content marketing, social media marketing, e-mail marketing, SEO, and analytics.

3. KENNY ELLIS ('07): Kenny continues to play an important role in the CCS Boys' Basketball program. Head Coach Cleveland is thankful for Kenny's participation: "Kenny has been a tremendous asset to me and the program. As a student-athlete for the Warriors, Kenny helped our program win three straight TAPPS 4A State Championships and his commitment to our program has continued well beyond his graduation. Kenny has consistently volunteered his time to be one of my summer basketball camp clinicians, he has assisted me with on the court teaching during varsity practices and coached basketball for one season at the middle school level. Kenny has been a positive mentor to some of our current players and is always willing to lend a hand to help the young men in our program be the best that they can be. Kenny's hard work and dedication to the game of basketball has opened doors for him to play collegiately and professionally. He is like a son to me and I am so proud of him and all of his accomplishments."

Technology on Campus

4. EVAN MCCLINTOCK ('12): Evan was on hand to help with the technology end of homecoming by joining the Live Stream Team. Evan is studying Management Information Systems at Texas A&M. Combining his passions for God and technology, Evan founded two Christian websites, HisCompass Ministry in 2005, and GodWord in 2012. Both websites are "dedicated to spreading the Gospel of Christ through educational media and technology." This summer, Evan developed a Bible

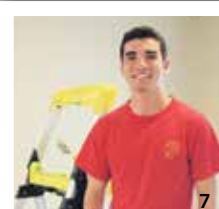
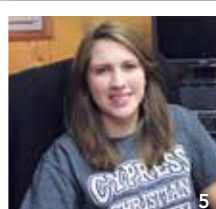
memorization tool for GodWord. Evan explained, "My goal for GodWord's memory verse tool is to assist people who want to know God by providing a fun and easy way to hide His Word in their hearts. It is my prayer through using GodWord, CCS students will memorize the Bible beyond what is required for their Bible classes." Please try the memorization tool at GodWord.org, and learn more about Evan's work through HisCompass Ministry at HisCompass.org.

CCS Summer Crew

5. SARAH KOOIMAN ('13): Sarah helped the IT Department to update software and hardware on school computers, install access points, set up computers in classrooms and offices. She is now attending Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, majoring in Business Management and Administration. She was blessed with two scholarships (yearbook and academic) to attend her dad's (CCS Teacher Tim Kooiman) alma mater. Sarah is the first CCS graduate to be honored with a yearbook scholarship and she looks forward to learning more in college about the process of producing these beloved books.

6. DAN CROZIER ('13): Dan helped prepare the CCS campus for the new school year and is attending Texas A&M University through the Blinn Team program. Dan has had a great time learning his way around Bryan-College Station while attending classes on two campuses. He is also a member of the Corps of Cadets in D-2 Company and loves taking part in the traditions, the fish camaraderie, and intramural football. Dan is shown on the right with fellow CCS Alumni **MATT BANCROFT ('13)** and **TRAVIS WILHITE ('13)**.

7. JONATHAN RANGEL ('13): Jonathan helped repair, renew, and upgrade various sections of the campus. He attends Lone Star College working toward a degree in nursing. He is a member of the Stir Christian Club on campus as well as a member of the Champion Forest Baptist Church college group. He was invited to join the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.



College and Career

8. ANDREW GRABER ('04): Andrew earned a BSN from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston School of Nursing and accepted an RN position at Providence Hospital in Waco in the cardiology unit of the hospital. Andrew is excited about using his new position to be the hands and feet of Christ to patients and their families.

9. LINDSAY EHRHARDT ('05): Lindsay played "The Cat" in Main Street Theater's production of *The Cat in the Hat* based on the book by Dr. Seuss.

10. MICHELLE ANDERSON COWAN ('06): Michelle and her husband, Jesse, are living in Denver, Colorado. Michelle recently began work for HW Home as an Interior Design Consultant and really enjoys using her creativity in this position. Michelle and Jesse attend Fellowship Denver Church where Jesse is the Audio Visual Production Director. They love living close to fellow alumni **JESSICA VAN RIEG GATES ('06)** and **SARAH SHOOK MAY ('06)**!

11. SARAH MATHEWES ('06): Sarah traveled to London, England to work with a team from her church to support a newly formed and growing church. Sarah's group assisted the youth pastor to build awareness of the youth group by going door to door and through street evangelism. They also helped with community events. Sarah works at Holy Trinity Episcopal School in Houston as the PreK3 Assistant Teacher.

12. EVAN WEPPLER ('07): Evan recently shaved his head to raise money for St. Baldrick's (a cancer research foundation) and donated nine inches of hair to the nonprofit group Children With Hair Loss, which provides hair pieces for individuals under 21. Evan is attending Wheaton College Graduate School studying Christian Formation and Ministry with a concentration in ministry to children and families. He was recently named Director of Children's Ministries at Poplar Creek Church.

13. JOHN BROWN ('09): John has been accepted into the spring 2014 class of Stephen F. Austin State University School of Nursing. John's mom, Robin, (shown in photo) is the CCS School Nurse.

14. CODY FRANKLIN ('11): Cody is studying forestry in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University. Cody took part in an undergraduate research project funded by the Aggie Research Scholars program. He joined three other students to estimate the effects that trees have on campus buildings and the surrounding environment. The data they gathered was put into a U.S. Forest Service program, which included energy savings, carbon storage, and the positive effect trees have on human life. Info: c-frank@tam.u.edu or visit essm.tamu.edu/news/2013.

Weddings

15. JESSICA VAN RIEG GATES ('06): Jessica married Rusty Gates in October 2013. They met while attending Dallas Baptist University. Alumni in their wedding included co-Matrons of Honor **MICHELLE VAN RIEG STANTON ('08)** and **MICHELLE ANDERSON COWAN ('06)**. Jessica and Rusty live in Denver, CO, and attend Bloom Church where Rusty is part of the pastoral staff. Jessica is a high school math teacher. Jessica's dad (father of the bride) is long-time volleyball coach John Van Rieg is also the Facilities Manager for CCS.

16. JORDAN CANIK ('07): Jordan married Kathryn Nicole Coulter in August 2013. Jordan and "Kat" met at Texas Tech. With a degree in retail management, Jordan is serving as assistant manager of the Sherwin Williams store in Crystal Beach, TX. Kat has a degree in human development and family studies and has just relocated to their new residence in Galveston and started her job search. **BRYAN TUTHILL ('07)** was Jordan's best man and **LANCE MOSS ('07)** was a groomsman. Photo by: www.themamones.com

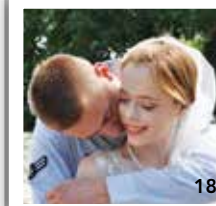
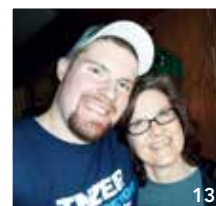
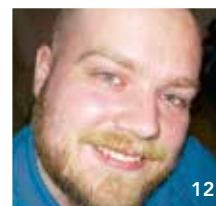
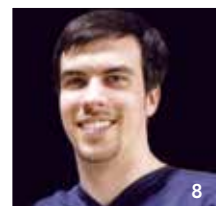
17. GENESIS DEVINE LUNA ('08): Genesis and Ryan Luna were married in December 2012. They kicked off spring 2013 with studies at South Texas College of Law and are expecting their first baby spring 2014.

18. SCOTT ORDENEUX ('11) and LAUREN SLATER ORDENEUX ('12): Scott and Lauren were married in June in 2013. Scott is in the United States Air Force. They live in England and attend Sedge Fen Baptist Church.

Children

19. CHASE HELLER ('02) and RACHEL JASPER HELLER ('02): Chase and Rachel are proud to announce the birth of their second daughter, Hayley Lynn Heller, who arrived on June 30, 2013. Hayley will be fighting Texas Aggie Class of 2035! Whoop! Camryn Heller, 22 months old, is her proud "Big Sister."

20. ASHLIE PARKER PEREIRAS ('02): Ashlie and her husband, Andrew, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Mark Patrick Pereiras, born on October 2, 2013.



In Memory



ANDREW LEE GLADNEY ('05) went home to be with his Lord and Savior on August 16, 2013. He was a cornerstone of love and encouragement for those around him. He loved relentlessly, faithfully, and genuinely. He was always generous, full of laughter and mischief. He will be desperately missed by all who knew him. As fellow believers, we look forward to being reunited with him in heaven.

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him."

I Thessalonians 4:13-14

While at CCS, Andrew starred in track and football and excelled in his roles in high school drama performances. After graduation, Andrew earned a B.S. in Geology from Baylor University and worked as Operations Manager for WellDrive. He is survived by his loving wife Melissa Flower Gladney; his brother DAVID GLADNEY ('03) and wife Kristen; his parents Lee and Sally Gladney; his grandfather Edward Lee Gladney; extended family, and friends. The family has created a facebook page: In Loving Memory of Andrew Lee Gladney.



CCS Alumnus Hunter Floyd in Full-Time Ministry in Las Vegas



CCS Alumnus Hunter Floyd graduated from Cypress Christian School in 2007 and expressed his thankfulness for God placing him at CCS: "As a direct result of the school and the relationships I made at CCS, I became a son of God my junior year. Since then, God has worked in my life and shown me the greatness of His Kingdom daily." After graduating from Liberty University with a degree in Biblical Studies, Hunter and his wife, Carissa, moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, to plant a church, along with a team of fellow Christians. They have successfully

planted a church called **Grace City Vegas.**

Hunter says, "The goal of Grace City is to do tough things, in tough places, so that God gets all the glory."

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINE

SUCCESS WITH THE CHURCH AND EXPANSIONS

Grace City Church has seen tremendous growth for a year old church with over 275 attendees for Sunday church service. Most importantly God has been moving

their church into a season of outreach with Las Vegas' broken. This is being done through the opening of an additional campus which will also serve as a food and clothing pantry, and an outreach center for the homeless, street kids, and addicts. Grace City Church believes that by putting the needs of others and the brokenhearted first that God will bless and show them favor in seeking revival in Las Vegas.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

SUCCESS WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Hunter's main focus is on youth ministry and God has shown awesome favor for Hunter and his team in this area. A public middle school has allowed them to partner with their campus, letting them come into school for lunch and talk with kids, serve the teachers, get to know the student leadership, and even announce their Bible studies over the P.A. for the whole school to hear! The Grace City Youth Group is now comprised of 20 kids and sees an average of 80 kids attend their Bible club at Schofield Middle School!

TEAM GOALS

Hunter says, "We want to see revival in Las Vegas. We want to experience miracles, changed lives, and see people become restored because of the amazing things that God can and promised He will do. At Grace City, we believe everything the Bible says and are daily seeking to see His Kingdom come to this city. Our hope is to inspire others to boldly live out the calling in their lives and to seek revival in themselves and the world around them."

PRAY FOR GRACE CITY AND LAS VEGAS

They covet your prayers for continued guidance and provision from THE Giver of all good things.

GRACE CITY IS PRAYING FOR:

- Revival in Las Vegas
- Bigger location to worship on Sundays
- Protection of Grace City staff, and all the pastors in the area
- Unity among the churches of Las Vegas
- Bonds of the enemy to be broken in the city and people to experience freedom in Christ



If you would like more information about the work Hunter and Carissa are involved in, or want to know how you can be a partner with them in their exciting work, please go to www.GraceCityVegas.com. If you would like to receive updates about their ministry or would like to know how to pray for Hunter and Carissa, you can contact Hunter at Hunter@GraceCityVegas.com or by mail at Grace City Church, P.O. Box 97815, Las Vegas, NV, 89193.

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For more information on how you, your family members, and friends can support CCS:

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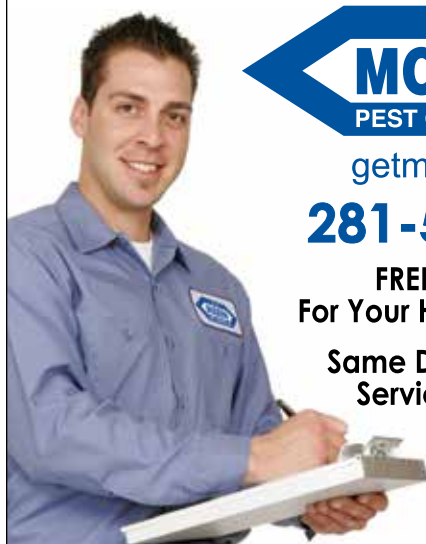


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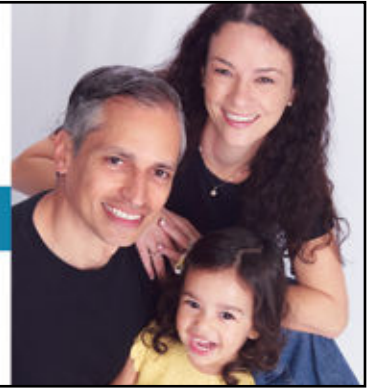
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