CYPRESS CHRISTIAN ISSUE 18 / 2012 CONTRACTOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE | Biblical Values | Cultural Impact

www.CypressChristian.org • 281.469.8829

K-12 Admissions • 281.469.7745

PRESS



Academic Excellence • Biblical Values • Cultural Impact www.CypressChristian.org • 281.469.8829 K-12 Admissions • 281.469.7745 11123 Cypress N. Houston Rd. • Houston, TX 77065



CONNECTION Issue 18 2011-2012

Contents 🔊



Head of School 4 I Am A Warrior 6 Senior Testimonies 7 Spring Semester 8 Elementary School Principal 10 Elementary School Highlights 12 Middle School Principal 14 Middle School Highlights 16 **AXIS 18** High School Principal 20 Commencement 2012 22 High School Highlights 24 Athletics 26 Fine Arts 29 Advancement 32 Admissions / Save the Date 34 Learning Center / Alumni 35 Sponsors 38

Thanks to the following groups of photographers: Bayou City Productions, G. Michael Photography, Jack Potts Photography, John McCain Photography, CCS Staff and Faculty, Yearbook Editor Rachael Lechman, Volunteer Photographers

The CONNECTION is published bi-annually and designed as a means of communication to the families and friends of Cypress Christian School. Correspondence may be directed to Communications@CypressChristian.org.

Head of School Stephen Novotny with elementary and secondary students after *Tribal Wars* field day.

目

RESS

FROM THE Head of School STEPHEN NOVOTNY, J.D.

On Mission

If a person or organization hopes to truly be effective, they must first clearly identify and stay focused on what they are trying to accomplish. While this truth seems so basic, human nature is such that it is easy for individuals and organizations to end up distracted or diverted from meaningful goals and purposes. When this happens, while certain destinations are reached, they are usually not the destinations desired.

The story of American Olympic athlete Matt Emmons provides a recent illustration of this truth. In the 2004 Olympic Summer Games held in Athens, Greece, Matt was the front runner for capturing the gold medal for the 50-meter three-position rifle event. With his last shot, he was poised to win the gold. Matt focused on calming himself. He expertly ensured that his firing technique was flawless. He took careful aim at the target, and fired his last and final round. His aim was dead on, the bullet flew true, and Matt hit the bull's-eye of the target he had carefully aligned in his sights. However, to his surprise, Matt scored absolutely no points for the shot. He did not win the gold medal, but instead sank to a distant 8th place in the competition. You see, Matt Emmons actually hit the wrong target. His focus was on the incorrect objective. He certainly succeeded at hitting what he was aiming for, but the truth was he aimed for the wrong thing. Matt Emmons was in lane number two, but somehow his focus shifted and he erroneously sighted in at the target in lane number three.

Similar to Matt Emmons' experience in the 2004 Olympic Games, some people work hard to reach a destination, only to find out they made a mistake in selecting that destination. Others become distracted from their original purpose. The Bible often warns us to carefully choose our path, to keep focused, and to double-check our goals

and objectives as we journey through life. The Bible cautions people

Our mission is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values.

about the danger of falling asleep, of drifting away, or slowly getting off course. It is easy to forget, to drift, or to get so busy you lose direction. To help guard against these dangers, at Cypress Christian School we constantly remind each other of our mission. We tag it on our emails, we write it on our walls, we stamp it on our literature, we announce it to visitors, and we recite it in many of our internal meetings. We want to take every precaution to stay on course, because remaining on mission is very important to us. Our mission is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values.

With strong academic achievement demonstrated at all levels from kindergarten to twelfth grade, with very high college-bound SAT scores, with Christian teachers passionately pointing children to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and with the Lord Jesus Christ being honored each day in our classrooms, I am pleased to report that Cypress Christian School is clear, focused, and dedicated to its mission. We are praying for God's blessing upon our school as we continue to press forward on mission.

Stephen Novotny, Head of School

I AM A WARRI

Each of these Warriors has been profoundly impacted by CCS. To watch a powerful video about their experience at CCS and how it has prepared them to impact their world for Christ, please go to www.CypressChristian.org/Support/I-AM-A-WARRIOR.cfm.



KEELEY LAMBERT – CLASS OF 2007..... Keeley is one of five students in her graduating class that attended CCS from kindergarten through 12th grade. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Acting from Texas State University and is now serving as a missionary to the arts community in New York City and North Africa through Campus Crusade for Christ. Keeley is thankful that her education at Cypress gave her a solid foundation and the desire to serve in the world but not to be of

STACEY WINDER – CURRENT CCS PARENT..... Stacey and her family have been impacted in so many ways by CCS. Her middle school son and elementary daughter continue to grow in their love and knowledge of Christ while receiving an excellent education. Stacey feels right at home at CCS and loves being part of a school that is in line with the values in which her family believes.

BEN BENNETT – CLASS OF 2012..... Ben will attend Texas A&M University and knows he is prepared, not just for the academic challenges, but also the challenges of life. He credits the closeknit, caring community of people at CCS. Ben was pushed and challenged to

see greater potential in himself while staying focused on Christ.

JACOB HICKS – CLASS OF 2012 Jacob will always cherish the Christian environment at CCS in which he had the opportunity to learn and be challenged since kindergarten. Jacob is confident that as a result of the education he received at CCS, he is strong in his faith and academically prepared for the challenges ahead. Jacob will use his academic and biblical preparation at Louisiana State University.

BARNABAS ODEYOMI – CLASS OF 2012..... 7th grade. He is humbled to have been part of a great group of kingdomminded people, and was compelled to make the most of every opportunity at CCS. Barnabas will attend Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore,

AWARRIOF

Maryland.



CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Senior Testimonials

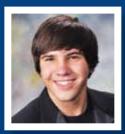
How CCS Has Impacted My Life Seniors 2012



Cameron



Jase



Ryan



Miles



David

Cameron Tipton

CCS has changed my life in so many ways. I am one of the proud and blessed ones who was able to attend CCS since kindergarten. Few things have impacted me more than being at CCS. Through the teachers and lifelong friends that were always there when I needed them, I have grown so much in my faith and have a solid foundation for the future.

Jase Clark

CCS has given me a place to grow as a person, both spiritually and physically. The caring teachers and coaches have encouraged and pushed me to better myself. I am so glad I was given the opportunity to attend Cypress Christian.

Ryan Morgan

I have been taught the importance of a strong biblical foundation and a network of believers in someone's life. It's taught me to be forgiving because of all the forgiveness I have been shown. As a result of attending CCS, I am prepared to defend my faith.

Miles Breman

I came to CCS my senior year and have learned so much. I'm extremely grateful for this school and will miss it.

David Eboh

I have definitely grown and matured and learned a lot thanks to CCS!

Victoria Adeniran

CCS has impacted my life in many ways but the most important is that I have been taught to keep my faith no matter what comes my way.



Victoria



huge part of my childhood and has been a place where I've grown and matured by being in an environment with teachers who genuinely love God. I leave with complete confidence that my faith is strong enough to withstand the years ahead.

Elena Ray

CCS has impacted my life by allowing me to reach my full potential in academics, athletics, and in my spiritual life. Through chapels and Bible classes, I have learned to be strong in my faith and stand up for myself when I am questioned about it.

Lauren Slater

CCS has impacted my life by preparing me to be a light in a dark world. I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have learned, and put my faith into action at the University of Texas.

Nicole Vance

A desire to do God's will without compromising academics has been instilled in me by CCS teachers.





Elena



Lauren



Nicole

2012 Spring Semester

































CONNECTION

DOTHALL WHCAC 2001

1-B

Elementary School



Elementary School Principal

MR. ROBERT WHITE

On Mission

It is no secret that to be a healthy, successful organization, you must know who you are and what you are attempting to accomplish. This understanding, the mission, serves to unite and guide all of your efforts and activities.

I am delighted to be part of such an organization! Three short statements provide a specific focus for our organization: Academic Excellence, Biblical Values, Cultural Impact. It's that simple!

During the spring and summer, I conduct new family interviews for students that have applied for the coming school year. The application process is comprehensive, and it culminates with an hour-long interview where I explain our mission, vision, and core values. Having a strong understanding of our identity allows me to ensure that we are serving families who share our goals and objectives.

It's exciting to watch our mission being fulfilled each day. Let us consider one recent example of cultural impact. I received an email from one of our parents who serves as a

- baseball coach for one
- of our athletic teams.

Coach Cliff writes, "Every Monday the Having a strong understanding of our identity allows me to ensure that we are serving families who share our goals and objectives.

athletic league we play in (West Houston Christian Sports Association) asks that coaches fill out a feedback form on how the previous Saturday's game went. The league wants to know what issues or good things happened during our games. One question they ask is 'Did you observe exemplary behavior?' The Coach for the St. Cecelia team copied me on his feedback form to the league. For this question he replied, 'We played Cypress Christian on Saturday, and a nicer and friendlier group of people you would be hard pressed to find. Although they beat us pretty handily, their parents, kids, and coaches were helpful, respectful, and very supportive of all the kids. We split time officiating and it went very well thanks to good sportsmanship all around.' I'm grateful that our school and family values make a positive impression on those we interact with. What a blessing it is to coach this team!"

As the principal, I could not ask for a better report. While I appreciate athletic competition and winning games, nothing is of greater importance to me on the athletic field than making an impact for Christ. I am so thankful for coaches that not only teach basic skills to our students, but also incorporate life lessons that impact our culture for Christ.

As I walk through our halls each day, I continue to thank our Lord for the opportunity to watch our mission unfold right before me. From admissions to athletics to academics, we desire to be mission driven. I thank God for the freedom we enjoy to pursue such a lofty mission.

Mr. Robert White, Elementary School Principal

Elementary Highlights

A Tre TRANSAUX 2013 BEARING









Record Run-4-Fun Thanks to everyone who donated to the 2012 Brandon Vick Memorial Run-4-Fun. A record setting \$41,140.86 was raised with proceeds being used to enhance the elementary technology program.

Baseball Players Impacting Community Elementary baseball players enjoyed a great season and impacted our community by displaying great sportsmanship and godly character. Great job, Little Warriors!

Kindergarten Graduation Forty-four kindergartners accepted their diplomas and are headed to first grade.

5th Grade Luncheon Fifth graders enjoyed a great time of celebration to end their elementary careers.

Tribal Wars

How can we tell tribal competition was a success? The highlight of the day was one of our students accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior! That, followed by the smiles, laughter, stories, and complete exhaustion of our students young and old (and not to mention our teachers) made for another priceless Warrior day!





Annual Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day Mike and

Special Friends' Day Mike and Marsha Patterson are not only CCS Grandparents but Alumni Parents, too! Over 400 grandparents and special friends joined elementary students for a special chapel service and fun activities. Watch for 2013 date to be announced.

Regional Spelling Bee District Champion

Congratulations to fifth grader Allison Strange who earned First Place and the District Champion title at the Regional ACSI District Spelling Bee.



Speech Meet

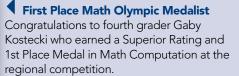
Students in grades 1-6 participated in the Regional Speech Meet. They competed with fourteen area Christian schools and came home with twenty-two superior ribbons and fifteen medals.

















Rodeo Art Gold Medalist

Fourth grader Katie Bretz (Photo by John McCain Photography) received notification that her rodeo art piece not only won a Gold Medal in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Private and Christian School District Competition, but she was also selected as a contestant in Reliant Energy's Power of Art People's Choice Voting Contest. Katie's artwork was displayed in the Hayloft Gallery at the rodeo.

Rodeo Art Finalist

Fourth grader Maddie Beckmeier's artwork earned Finalist status and was considered for the top three awards.



Scan this QR Code to read more Elementary Highlights or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Elementary/Index.cfm

CONNECTION 13

Middle School



FROM THE Middle School Principal

MRS. IVA NELL RHEA

Mission Impossible

The music is cued, a phone rings, and then there is a cryptic message. The world stands on the brink of destruction, save for a small band of operatives who are hopefully up for the impossible task. Well-known words end the call: "The mission is yours if you choose to accept it." A seemingly formidable task, a talented but trifling group of resistance fighters... sounds like a day in middle school!

What is the mission that drives our middle school teachers and staff to daily slog through raging hormones, frequent social upheavals, an organizational abyss, and a perspective that focuses on the day at hand rather than the prize? It is to give our young teenagers God's perspective as they question and learn about the world around them. It is to provide a sound, developmentally appropriate academic base from which they can launch toward high school. It is to build into them the value of Kingdom service in a world which values serving self.

Among our students in middle school, we have several who have already weathered significant storms in their young lives. Our middle school Bible teachers, Marilyn York, Lubega Frankio, and Rachael Lechman, are uniquely equipped and positioned to quide students into a deeper understanding of God's Word and then intentionally look for

God's time to apply the truth of Scripture to questions, discussions, distress, and even

Having dedicated time each day to dig into the Bible and focus on what God has to say is a precious distinctive of our school.

anger that students might reveal concerning hard life issues. Having dedicated time each day to dig into the Bible and focus on what God has to say is a precious distinctive of our school.

Each member of our middle school teaching team believes that young people passing through a period of rapid physical, emotional, and social growth are indeed able to understand, analyze, and evaluate as they learn about the world around them. Jean Hinn works diligently to prepare seventh and eighth graders for the biology, chemistry, and physics classes that await them in high school. She has taken on the mission of making sure that every student that passes through eighth grade understands the scientific process and applies that knowledge in an experimental setting. Julie Crozier and Alison Ivey believe that every middle schooler can organize ideas in a way that clearly communicates. Thoughtfully crafted poems, speeches, research papers, letters, summaries, and essays may seem impossible, but these teachers lovingly encourage their young writers to push toward the goal of excellence. Math teachers Beth Beach and Karen McGrath are convinced that eleven to fourteen year olds can move from concrete math to abstract algebraic processes. They use games and real-world math to bring the challenging concepts alive for their students. Greg Bretz, Dia Moore, and David Horn develop the talents of young artists as they use their passion for art, drama, and music to lead their classes to greatness. Middle school is an exciting time to explore a second language. Spanish is first introduced in a unique way by gifted teachers in sixth grade. Who knows what interest and talent will be ignited by these great teachers?

Teachers expand the world of our sixth through eighth graders by providing off-campus experiences throughout the year. Tim Kooiman and Karen McGrath spend hours planning every detail of a five-day trip to Washington, D.C. for students and a few blessed parents and chaperones each May. This year, history teachers made sure that their students understood the price paid by Americans of the past by organizing trips to the Houston Museum of Natural Science to experience the Civil War exhibit. Sixth graders loved their visit to the aquarium in Galveston after their unit on oceans and waves. The Alley Theater's annual production of A Christmas Carol was an exciting trip for eighth graders who had just completed a study of the Dickens' classic in English class.

Occasionally a student will return to a teacher to say "thank you for helping me stay the course," but a middle school teacher understands that he or she is one who waters the seed and patiently removes weeds that may keep the plant from reaching maturity and ultimate usefulness. Middle school teachers at Cypress Christian have God's eyes to be able to see a season of life that might look impossible to some and boldly say "I accept the mission."

Mrs. Iva Nell Rhea, Middle School Principal

Middle School Highlights

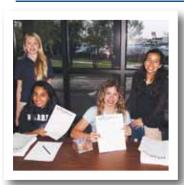




Eighth Grade Trip to Washington, D.C.

Veteran Commends Students

Administrators, teachers, and parents chaperoned this year's eighth grade class on the annual trip to Washington, D.C. to deepen students' knowledge of and appreciation for the Christian foundation of our nation. Upon returning home, Mr. Novotny received an email from Mr. David Ripley, Former Captain and Combat Veteran, Armor/Calvary, U.S. Army complimenting students during their visit to Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Ripley wrote: "I understand that your school had a tour of young students in the nation's capitol. I was a guardian with a tour of WWII veterans from the State of Oklahoma, and the paths of these two groups merged in Arlington National Cemetery at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Let me say that these students were so well behaved, gracious, and polite that it reflects well on your school and on your student body in general. Of particular note was that they reached out to a group of men and two women veterans and expressed their thanks to these representatives of what has been referred to as the Greatest Generation. I can tell you from first-hand knowledge that the impact of this simple act on the collective group was immense. I think your kids made the day for the entire group of veterans."



"It's a Bird! It's a Plane! No, it's a

"HAMster!" After much work and many drafts, the CCS Middle School Newspaper, "HAMster," made its debut! The name of the paper is an acronym based on the letters of the three students who created the paper: Heather Murrill, Audrey Floyd, and Mira Fereg. Claire Wolfig arrived at CCS just in time to join the class for the final printing and distribution.



ACSI Regional Spelling Bee Qualifiers

Catherine Perry, Desí Brewer, Aaron Clark, Shelby Zerwas, Vynna Chitolie, Emily Mahan

using for God's glory."

The

In



E STAR LAWMEN

Sixth Grade Regional Speech

Meet Medalists Noah Lee earned a Superior Ribbon and Silver Medal in Bible Memorization and Isabel Pogson earned a Superior Ribbon and Bronze Medal in Poetry.

Eighth Graders Excel at Local and District Science Fair Competitions

(District winners) Life Science: Kylie Miller – 1st Place Gold Medal and Justin Hicks – 2nd Place Silver Medal;

Physical Science: Wesley Wilson – 1st Place Gold Medal and Jordon Coates – Excellent Ribbon

Grand Champion in "Traditions that Make Texas Proud" Competition

Congratulations to Grand Champion Aaron Clark on his Seventh Grade Texas History Fair project entitled "The Texas Rangers."

You Be the Chemist Finalists

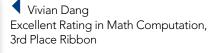
CCS middle schoolers competed in the "You Be the Chemist" competition sponsored by Expo Chemical Company. Winners were Amber Dingman – 1st Place; Lizzie Gwyn – 2nd Place; Vynna Chitolie – 3rd Place; and Kory Yankowski – 4th Place.

Regional Math Olympians

Davis Carver
 Excellent Rating in Math Reasoning,
 2nd Place Ribbon

Greyson Landrum Excellent Rating in Math Computation, 3rd Place Ribbon





End-of-Year Awards



Academic Excellence Awards Julia Williams, James Tadrzak, and Trey Namanny

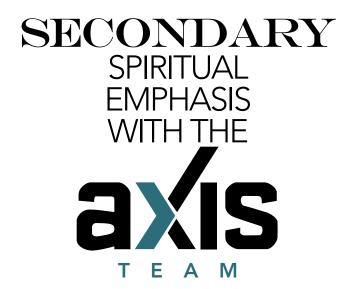


Christian Character Awards Shelby Zerwas and Isabel Pogson

Joshua Awards Kylie Miller and Peter Achterkirch



Scan this QR Code to read more Middle School Highlights or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Secondary/Index.cfm



CCS strives to engage students in owning their faith, applying Scripture to their life, and being equipped to share the good news of Jesus Christ with their culture.

uring Spiritual Emphasis Week for secondary students (held the first week of January), the AXIS Team from Colorado Springs addressed students during special assemblies. AXIS is a team of twentysomethings who creatively educate hearts by questioning assumptions, interpreting media, and equipping communities to move from apathy to compassionate action.

Opening Session

The AXIS team examined the "marketplace of ideas" in today's culture and focused on the six questions that determine an individual's belief system.

Following an explanation of the critical nature of each question, the team used current movies, songs from

The team made the point that many false worldviews are actually "whirled-views" that are a mixture of errant philosophies caught like the common cold.

various genres, and multiple media clips to demonstrate the importance of questioning the truth of ideas. The

••••••••

team made the point that many false worldviews are actually "whirled-views" that are a mixture of errant philosophies caught like the common cold.

The Six "Big Questions" that served as a grid for a discussion of ideas/worldviews: 1. What is real? (reality)

- 2. Where did we come from? (origin)
- 3. Who am I? (identity)
- 4. What is right and wrong? (ethics)
- 5. What is the meaning of life? (purpose)
- 6. What happens when I die? (death)

Mid-Week Sessions

The morning session focused on the

prevalent worldview of naturalism. which is the root of atheism, agnosticism, and communism. Celebrities that

support this erroneous worldview were shown so students can learn to be aware of such compromising influences in

popular media. Short clips of popular movies and music videos were shown demonstrating the pervasiveness of this worldview in current culture.

The afternoon session examined the false worldview of spiritualism, which can be seen in Hinduism, Buddhism, Animism, and New Age ideas. Celebrity and movie clips that espouse this philosophy in some form were shown.

Final Sessions

The AXIS team emphasis moved to the strong evidentiary and rational basis for the Christian faith, and the importance of understanding the battle over the worldview that is going on in culture around us. The students were challenged to defend their faith and prove the existence of God to an agnostic college professor in a very interesting improvisational skit. The point was wellmade to the students that none of them could take on the "professor" for more than a few seconds before being out of ideas and words. The team shared some interesting statistics: although 90%

18 CYPRESS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



of Americans say they believe in God, only five percent of college-age adults agreed with 8 key statements that define a Christian worldview. Short clips demonstrating the tragic and morally bankrupt views of current celebrities and television programs emphasized the fact that a mere mention of God does not necessarily equate to a true Christian worldview.

Christianity was examined through the grid of the six "Big Questions:"

- 1. What is real? Reality is an intersection of the physical and spiritual realms.
- 2. What is man's origin? God designed and created man and all creatures with precision and purpose.
- 3. What is man's identity? Man is created in the image of God.
- 4. How are right and wrong determined? Ethics are determined by God's character and standards.
- 5. What is man's purpose in life? Man's purpose is to be an imitator of God, to love God and others.
- 6. What happens at death? We receive eternal justice: heaven or hell.

AXIS team members challenged the students to consider the difference that being a Christian should make in critical areas of life, particularly the arena of media (TV, movies, music, computer, video games, texting, and print). Some startling statistics awakened the students to the sheer number of hours teens spend "in front of the rectangle." AXIS then encouraged students to consider the tremendous blessings that are theirs and the issues of poverty, hunger, lack of education, lack of clean water, lack of available medicine and health care, and human trafficking.

Finally, the team asked four thoughtprovoking questions for each student to consider as he or she searches for a way to make a difference in Jesus' name:

- 1. What breaks your heart and eats away at your mind?
- 2. What is in your hand?
- 3. Where is God working?
- 4. What would you do if you knew that you could not fail?

A closing thought challenged everyone in the room: What could you do with ONE hour a week?

AXIS Parent Meeting

Parents were invited to join the team in a one-hour parent meeting, called "Sex, College, Beer, Technology, Money and Jesus – What Students Think About and Tools for Effective Family Discipleship."

TESTIMONIES

Administration

We believe that students were challenged in their growth as a follower of Christ, and together we thank God for our friends from the AXIS ministry for investing their time with our students.

Staff

Cindy Wilhite commented, "I have never heard so many positive words come out of our students' mouths about something. AXIS was great! They provided so much information to us that will better equip students and teachers to profess their faith."

Student

Junior Lauren Echols remarked, "I thought that AXIS was a great group of young adults that could really relate to our age group. They did a good job of making us aware of the world around us so that we can be better witnesses for Christ."

Student

A sixth grade student explained: "I learned my most important lesson when Axis asked, 'How would you act if God did not exist?' Well, I wouldn't go to church, read the Bible, go to this school, be as nice, be as smart, be as thankful. And, that got me to thinking. These are the things that normal Christians do. That was the moment when I realized that I wasn't 'getting it' like I thought I was. I don't want to be a normal Christian. I want to be 'on fire for God.' I am going to pray and work on it."

Students, employees, and parents agree that AXIS should definitely come back next year!



Excellence is a Biblical Value



High School Principal Dr. Glenn Holzman with graduating seniors who have attended CCS since kindergarten (front left to right): Kit Rhea, Liz Hilton, Allie Aimone, Nikki Vance (middle): Cameron Kostak, Andrew Galloway, Travis McGrath, Ryan Morgan (back): Cameron Tipton, Austin Barton, Jacob Hicks, Kyle Moon



Photo by G. Michael Photography

FROM THE High School Principal DR. GLENN HOLZMAN

The mission statement of Cypress Christian School speaks of academic excellence and biblical values. A biblical pundit could say the mission statement is redundant since excellence is a biblical value. As a Christian institution, CCS understands from the Scripture that excellence of life is a definite outworking of the presence of God in the life of a believer. "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God" (2 Cor. 3:5). The essence of excellence resides in God and should be reflected in those created in the image of God and called the children of God. The more we are in God and He in us, the more excellent we become. Christ did not enable us for mediocrity but for excellence.

Ted Engstrom, author on corporate and personal life management writes:

Lasting success, true excellence, seldom comes overnight. And, it always has a price. One night after he had given one of the greatest concerts of his brilliant career, Paderewski was greeted by an overeager fan who said, "Oh I'd give my life to be able to play like you do." Paderewski replied quietly, "I did."

Excellence is a process that should occupy all our days, whether it is tied to a specific piece of work done or not. Just as you must work at life, so you must work at the spirit of excellence. It will become a part of you only through a singleness of purpose and a determination to see your goals through to the end.

Excellence is not a state that we attain; it is a trait of God that we reflect by His gracious Spirit working in us. An excellent spirit was found in Daniel (Daniel 5:12). The apostle Paul made it clear, however, that we should not depend on our excellence but on God. "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech...but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:1, 4-5).

Excellent Christian education is not automatic. Excellence is the glove on the hand of diligence. It is hard work and there are no Groupon coupons for a special deal. We must say as David did, "...nor will I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). Christian excellence is living life "heartily, as to the Lord" (Colossians 3:23), approving "the things that are excellent" (Philippians 1:9-11).

There is no excuse for shoddiness on the part of a Christian school. Our values and goals

may not always call for the use of cutting-edge technology or Madison Avenue techniques, but there is never an excuse

There is never an excuse for anything less than quality in a school that claims the name of Christ.

for anything less than quality in a school that claims the name of Christ. Therefore, we will continue to strive for academic excellence in all endeavors at Cypress Christian. Not necessarily because it will get our students into quality colleges and universities of their choice, although it will, but because it is a biblical value that will bring glory and honor to our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Glenn Holzman, High School Principal

- ¹ Ted W. Engstrom, The Pursuit of Excellence, Zondervan Publishing,
- Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1982, p. 85.
- ² Ibid., p. 89.

Commencement

Class of 2012

On May 25, 2012, seniors crossed the stage to accept their diplomas at the fifteenth annual High School Commencement Ceremony held at Cypress Bible Church where CCS classes began almost 35 years ago. The Class of 2012 was offered over \$3 million in scholarships and accepted to over 40 different colleges across the U.S. The average SAT score (college entrance exam) for the Class of 2012 was 1750 with the top 50% achieving an average score of 1830.



Award Recipients

Valedictorian, Ben Bennett

Ben was recognized as the Class of 2012 Valedictorian - the Texas

Association's Highest Ranking Graduate Award. With this honor, Ben receives a one year tuition-paid scholarship to the public Texas university of his choice.

Ben plans to attend Texas A&M University to study mechanical engineering.

Faculty Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Ben Bennett

This scholarship was founded to give CCS faculty the opportunity to recognize a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding effort to achieve overall academic excellence.

Spirit of Paul Scholarship, Ben Bennett

This scholarship was established to encourage students to develop and display the driving spirit and perseverance of the Apostle Paul, who accomplished much for the early church. The recipient of this award has exhibited that same drive and perseverance. This scholarship is funded in part by donations given to CCS in memory of loved ones. CCS wishes to honor the memory of Quinn Baker, Douglas Earl Reo, Ruby Harper Fordham, Andre Kimbrough, and Virginia Walden.

Salutatorian, John Mock

John has proven his superior academic achievement to receive the honor of Salutatorian. He accepted a scholarship from the University of Oklahoma to study Spanish and International Business.

Fine Arts Scholarships

Lauren Slater and Connor Sparks (Drama); Travis McGrath and Brianna Ferguson (Music); Samantha Tidwell (Art)

CCS has a rich heritage of producing students who excel in the areas of drama, music, and art. Fine Arts Scholarships reflect an overall excellence in these areas.

Will Rhodes Athletic Scholarship Kit Rhea and Barnabas Odeyomi

This scholarship was established in memory of former CCS student William David Rhodes. Each year, there are two recipients: one male and one female. The recipients of this award are CCS students who make public profession of their faith in Jesus Christ, who demonstrate Christlike behavior to fellow students and athletes, and whose lives are living witnesses to others as they lead their teams and follow their coaches.



Christian Character Scholarship Barnabas Odeyomi

This scholarship was established to recognize a graduating senior who has demonstrated Christlike qualities throughout high school by being humble in spirit, outspoken in faith, a strong witness in the community, a model of integrity, and a good friend to all.

Dornbusch Science Scholarship sponsored by Expo Chemical Co. Jacob Hicks

This scholarship was established to recognize a graduating senior who plans to pursue an education in the field of science.



Ashley Beaird Blinn College

Lauren Slater University of Texas

Bri Ferguson Blinn College

Timothy Magstadt South Dakota School of Mines

Nikki Vance Texas A&M University-Blinn Team

Josh White Pensacola Christian College

Stephanie Nguyen Texas A&M University-Blinn Team

Andrew Neyland Texas Tech University

Evan McClintock Texas A&M University

Elena Ray Texas Tech University

Michelle Cho **Binghampton University**

Taylor Farris Stephen F. Austin State University Kit Rhea Hardin-Simmons University

Cameron Tipton West Texas Â&M University

Hunter Byrne Lone Star College

Liz Hilton Louisiana State University

Ryan Morgan Lone Star College

Taylor Massey University of Houston

Troy Mason University of Texas-San Antonio

Mischelle Aufmuth Lone Star College

John Mock University of Oklahoma

Samantha Tidwell Savannah College of Art and Design University of Texas-San Antonio

Kayla Dornbusch University of Houston Travis McGrath Blinn College

David Eboh Texas Tech University

Ben Mitchell University of Texas-San Antonio

Cody Mangum Lone Star College

Cameron Kostak West Texas A&M University

Lauren Davis University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

Allie Aimone Louisiana State University

Andrew Galloway Deciding

Jase Clark Louisiana State University

Jason Groll

Connor Sparks University of Houston

Miles Breman University of Louisiana Photo by G. Michael Photography

Barnabas Odeyomi Johns Hopkins University

Victoria Adeniran Texas A&M University-Kingsville

David Hurst Texas A&M University

Austin Barton West Texas A&M University

Phillip McCurry Southern Nazarene University

Evan Doremus St. Edwards University

Zachary Tallackson Lee University

Ben Bennett Texas A&M University

Jacob Hicks Louisiana State University

Kyle Moon Blinn College

*Graduates are listed by row left to right.

High School Highlights





TAPPS Academic and Speech Meet District and State Champions

District

High school students received 37 ribbons in eighteen categories at the TAPPS 3A District 4 Academic and Speech Meet. Overall as a team, CCS was the District Champion! Individual winners included: Kit Rhea: 1st Place/District Champion-Persuasive Speaking

- David Hurst: 1st Place/three-time District Champion-Number Sense
- Lauren Slater: 1st Place/two-time District Champion-Solo Acting Katie Moore: 1st Place/ District
- Champion-Poetry Interpretation Olivia Roberts: 1st Place/District Champion-Original Oratory

<u>State</u>

As a team, Cypress Christian placed sixth overall out of thirty-six 3A schools. Individual winners included: David Hurst: 1st place (State Champion)-Number Sense Travis McGrath: 1st place (State Champion)-Poetry Interpretation Cameron Tipton: 3rd place (Bronze

- Medal)-Persuasive Speaking Travis McGrath: 4th place-Prose Interpretation
- Katie Moore: 4th place-Poetry
- Interpretation Bailey Comeaux/Joel Solar: 4th place-Duet Acting

Expanding Academic Excellence

CCS continually strives to provide opportunities for our students to reach their academic potential, while also teaching the biblical principles that they will need to ensure true success in life. Before the 2011-2012 school year came to a close, CCS administrators and faculty had already made plans to expand academic offerings for 2012-2013 school year. In addition to the AP level and dual credit courses that were offered this past year, a new AP level English course will be available to high school juniors next year. Furthermore, additional honors level course offerings are being planned for the upcoming

academic year, and currently, the following honors classes are scheduled to be offered for the 2012-2013 fall semester to students that meet appropriate prerequisites: Honors Geometry; Honors Algebra II; Honors Statistics; Pre-DC Chemistry; Pre-AP Biology; Honors Physics I; Honors Digital Programming; Pre-AP English I; Pre-AP English II; AP English Language and Composition; Honors Creative Writing; Honors Economics/Government; and Honors Spanish V. Full course descriptions and prerequisites are available in the 2012-2013 course catalog found on the school website.



Student-of-the-Year Awards



Seniors

Best Christian Character Barnabas Odeyomi

Academic Excellence/Combined Subjects: Mathematics and Sciences Ben Bennett

History and Bible Stephanie Nguyen English and Foreign Language John Mock

Grades 9-11







Best Christian Character Shannen Longridge-11th, Blaise Fontenot-10th, Quin Roberts-9th Academic Excellence/Combined Subjects: Mathematics and Sciences Travis Wilhite-11th, Katie Moore-10th, Travis Vick-9th History and Bible Meredith Achterkirch-11th, Hunter Vick-10th, Madison Clark-9th English and Foreign Language Alyssa Beach-11th, Amanda Swanton-10th, Michael Bullock-9th

Technology



Programming Team Places at Top at Competition

CCS Java Computer Programmers placed at the top in a recent competition. Sophomore Marc Slattery and seniors Evan McClintock and Andrew Neyland took 2nd place in the Novice Division which included a written exam and a two-hour programming session. Seniors Ben Bennett and Andrew Neyland won Runner-up in a Scratch Game Re-make Competition with "Tron."

Final HP Code Wars for Senior Programmers

Hosted on Hewlett-Packard's Houston campus, HP CodeWars is a tough computer programming competition for high school students. Seniors Evan McClintock, Andrew Neyland, and David Hurst attended their final HP CodeWars competition of their high school career. "Perhaps one of our seniors will make their way back to HP as an employee just as some of our CCS graduates have already done," commented Technology Teacher Mr. Tim Kooiman.

National Merit Scholar



Senior David Hurst Named National Merit Finalist and Scholar

In February, officials of the National Merit® Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) announced that CCS Senior David Hurst was selected as 1 of 15,000 finalists in their competition. The National Merit® Scholarship Program honors students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. High school students enter the National Merit® Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit[®] Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT®) – a test which serves as an initial screen of more than 1.5 million entrants each year.

In May, David was notified that he had been designated as National Merit Scholar and had been selected to receive a college-sponsored Merit Scholarship® award through Texas A&M University. David plans to attend TAMU and major in his favorite subject – math!



Scan this QR Code to read more High School Highlights or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Secondary/Index.cfm

High School Athletics







APPERSICA

"Taking the Challenge" was the theme for Warrior Athletics in 2011-2012 and every coach and athlete worked wholeheartedly this year. We were successful in many areas, with football, boys' soccer, and golf going farther in playoffs than ever before. We faced challenges in many areas, but always rose above them, thanks to the positive coaching and dedicated athletes. It was an exciting year from the beginning all the way through the State Track and Field Meet. Ben Mitchell became the 3A State Champ in Golf and Evan Doremus is once again the 3A State Champ in High Jump. As you will see, we not only took the challenge but we overcame it all. God blessed our year and we are grateful to Him for everything we endured, because in the end we were truly victorious!

HIGH SCHOOL 2011-2012

- Volleyball: Competed in Bi-District
- Football: District, Bi-District, Regional Champs, State Final Four
- Basketball (Girls): Bi-District Champs, Competed in Area
- Basketball (Boys): Competed in Bi-District
- Winter Soccer (Girls): Competed in Playoffs
- Winter Soccer (Boys): District Runner-up, Area Champs, Member of Elite Eight
- Golf: Regional Qualifiers (Ben Mitchell State Champion)
- Baseball: Fought Hard in Tough District
- Softball: Fought Hard in Tough District
- Track and Field (Girls): Third in District
- Track and Field (Boys): Third in District (Evan Doremus High Jump State Champ)



College Signings/Awards

CCS ATHLETES TO PLAY AT COLLEGE LEVEL NEXT FALL



Phillip McCurry – Football for Southern Nazarene University Phillip McCurry at 6'7" 290 lb. might just be the biggest football player to ever come out of CCS. He will use his strength and talent to play football for Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma City. Phillip was a standout lineman on both sides of the ball for the Warriors. He rarely came out of the game and as a result earned 1st Team All-District honors on both sides of the ball as well as 1st Team All-State Honors as an offensive linemen and 2nd Team All-State as a defensive lineman. As a student, Phillip was selected to the All-State Academic team. During his time at CCS, he played for three District Championship teams and helped CCS advance to the State Semi-Finals his senior year.

Kit Rhea – Softball for Hardin-Simmons University

Kit Rhea is looking forward to studying elementary education and playing softball for Hardin-Simmons University. She is the first CCS student to accept an offer to play softball at the college level. Kit attended CCS since kindergarten, was an "A" student, a member of academic, athletic, fine arts, and community organizations, and received many awards. Kit's favorite class at CCS was Bible. She said, "We learned about the foundations of our Christian faith; we discussed why we believe what we believe; we examined the deeper elements of being a Christian in today's culture and how to defend our faith when we go to college. It is important to me to influence others not only with my words, but with my actions. I want to show Christ's love in my daily life. I can't wait to see what the future holds."





Evan Doremus – Basketball for St. Edwards University

Evan's diligence and hard work paid off as his basketball abilities got the attention of several schools including Houston Baptist, Dallas Baptist, Texas A&M Corpus Christi, and Denver University. In the end, though, St. Edwards University got his vote to play basketball at the next level while studying business/finance. This season, the 6'7'forward led TAPPS District 7-3A in scoring and was selected Offensive MVP for the district. For CCS, he scored a total of 500 points averaging 19.2 points per game, 8.7 rebounds, 3.5 assists, 1.7 steals and 1.2 blocks. He was chosen as this year's team MVP in addition to making 1st Team All-District and Academic All-State.

John Mock – Cheerleading for University of Oklahoma

John Mock will cheer for the University of Oklahoma Sooners and major in Spanish and International Business. Cheer Coach Natalie Kirtley had the following to share about John: "I have had the great opportunity to get to know and coach John for three years and was thrilled to have him join our team because of the potential and strength he would bring. Our team has grown in our stunts because of our ability to incorporate harder stunts with the help of John. His encouragement and willingness to work hard has been inspiring to the whole squad. John is a great example of Christian character, and it will be a joy to see him live that out in the position of a college athlete." John is the first male CCS cheerleader to cheer at the college level.





Congratulations to our recipients: Elena Ray and Barnabas Odeyomi





The football team is looking to win its fourth straight district title and return to the playoffs for the fifth straight year. Do not miss the 2012 season opener on Friday, August 31 against Brazos Christian. Information about the 2012 season, including the full schedule, season tickets, booster club, and more is available at www.CypressChristian.org/Football.

2012 WARRIOR FOOTBALL



Scan this QR Code to read more about High School Athletics or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Athletics



CONNECTION 27

Middle School Athletics











Middle School 2011-2012

Sword and Shield Recipients

Emily Fredrickson and Conner Orrick were recognized and honored for exemplifying excellence in Athletics, Leadership, Determination, Sportsmanship, Christian Character, Academic Achievement, and Integrity. Recipients exemplified every part of this award in their sports, the classroom, and in their spiritual walk.

- Volleyball: District Runner-up
- Football: Tied for Third in District
- Basketball:
 - (Boys) Third in District (Girls) Fought Hard in Competitive District
 - Winter Soccer: Girls/Boys Played Independent Schedule
 - MS Track: (Boys) A and B – Third at District Meet,

SEBALI

- (Girls) A and B Second at District Meet
- MS Softball: Girls Played Independent Schedule
- MS Baseball: Placed Second in NHAL District Tournament

Drama









Sixth Grade Drama

COMPLETE

THE OLD MENT

Under the direction of Choir Director David Horn and Drama Teacher Dia Moore, the third quarter Sixth Grade Musical Theatre class presented *The Old Testament Fast Forward* by Tom Long and Allen Pote – a musical rendition of the complete history of the Old Testament.

Sixth Grade Drama

The fourth quarter drama class performed the musical, *Rescue in the Night* by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The presentation of the story of Daniel in the lions' den was a light-hearted, but faithful rendition of the biblical story of courage and obedience.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Drama

The Middle School Drama Classes presented: 1) Fractured Fairy Tales by Daron Scott McFarland – the mixed up parodies of three popular children's stories including The Pretender Hen, The Wolf in Grandma's House, and The Case of the Missing Porridge; and 2) Malice in the Palace – the Story of Esther, by Tom Long and Allen Pote.

High School Drama

Scan this QR Code to read

The High School Drama Class performed their dinner theater murder mystery, *Death by Dessert* by Nathan Hartswick, to a sold out crowd. Mrs. Donell Tallackson prepared a delicious Italianstyle dinner, including a "to die for" chocolate dessert.



more Drama News or go to: www.cypresschristian.org/fine-arts/secondary-drama-speech-and-debate.cfm

Music



Chamber Choir Tied for Top Performing Choir in State

The Chamber Choir received a Superior Rating at TAPPS State competition, but it does not end there. Not only did the choir receive more ones than twos, but every judge gave the choir a Superior Rating, resulting in a perfect score. Moreover, because the choir chose the most difficult pieces (Grade 5), the group was awarded the maximum points possible for a Large Ensemble in the competition. Only one other high school scored on level with our choir, making their group and ours the top performing choirs in the state!

"I am tremendously proud of the efforts of our choir students. To be able to accomplish this much speaks well to not only the ability of each student, but more importantly, to the ability of those same students to recognize the impact of a choral ensemble functioning not as many members, but as one body united in its purpose to glorify God through song."

David Horn Choir Director



Chamber Choir Earns Gold

In March, the Chamber Choir participated in the World Strides Heritage Performance competition. The event played host to several competing choirs and instrumental ensembles from across the nation. The goal of the choir was to be recognized as a top-performing ensemble, and that's exactly what was achieved. They received a Gold rating, and placed second in their division! By receiving this rating, the group is invited to the Festival of Gold, a special performance opportunity in either Los Angeles, Chicago, or New York City's Carnegie Hall.



6

Superior Scores for Soloist and Pianist

Soloist Dana Mickey (on left) and pianist Madison Clark (below) received Superior scores at TAPPS State.

Choir Student Earns Place in Regional Treble Choir

CCS freshman, Dana Mickey (on left), competed in the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) annual All-State Choir Competition with approximately 120 sopranos in her division. This was a very intense competition, as she competed not only with other sopranos at her level, but also with all upperclass women in the entire greater Houston area. She placed 37th, which made her eligible for the Regional Treble Choir.



Scan this QR Code to read more Music News or go to:

www.CypressChristian.org/Fine-Arts/Secondary-Music-News.cfm

















TAPPS District Meet

Secondary art students placed third overall in TAPPS 3A District competition with four artists taking first place: Liz Hilton (above left); Zach Tallackson (above right); Samantha Tidwell (second from top of page); Nathanial Lira (basket project at right)

Biblical Concepts in Art

As a continuation of the AXIS conference, secondary art students created conceptual art sculptures that represented different elements of a biblical worldview. The sculptures represented the biblical concepts of reality, origin, identity, ethics, purpose, and death.

Senior Headed to Art and Design College

Senior Samantha Tidwell will attend Savannah College of Art and Design to study sequential art. Her ambition is to move to Japan to become a manga artist. Samantha's favorite class at CCS was art because she "got to try out all sorts of new and fun projects." She even made her own comic called "Stupid Cupid." Samantha says, "CCS has taught me many things to strengthen my faith, as well as prepared me for the hard work I have ahead of me. It has also provided a place that challenges my individuality."

Senior Awarded Scholarship to Art Class

Congratulations to senior Ben Bennett who was selected as one of 78 students (out of 800 entries) to participate in the finals for the Quick Draw Contest held at Reliant Stadium. To enter this contest, students had to submit their fifty-minute drawing from real life – either a full-length or portrait of a person. Those whose entries were accepted were invited to attend the finals, where they drew another picture from live models. As a participant, Ben received a scholarship certificate to attend a week-long class at the Glassell School of Art to be held summer 2012.

Let's Be Friends!

Students from Coach Bretz's seventh grade cartooning class participated in the "The Art of Friendship" contest. The theme for the contest was based on bringing different cultures and religions together to make the world a better place. All six students entered very strong original pieces. Pictured from top to bottom: Hannah Hurst, Abby Baldwin, Emily Boyd, Nick Consoli, Spencer Sager, Greyson Landrum

Finalist Status at Rodeo

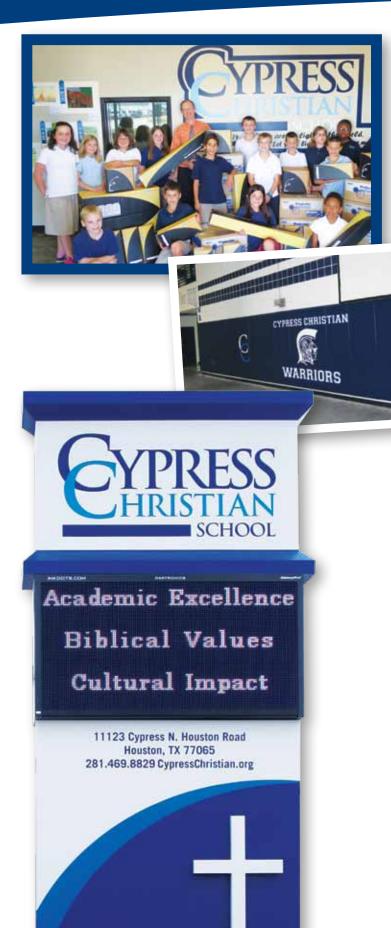
Art students placed again this year at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. Avery Barbish was named as a Finalist in the selection for a Gold Medal.





Scan this QR Code to read more Arts News or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Fine-Arts/Secondary-Art-News.cfm

Advancement



Thank you for Supporting the Mission of Cypress Christian!

Resources are needed to carry out any mission, and many have enthusiastically decided to support the mission of Cypress Christian. The Paving the Way Annual Fund Goal of \$200,000 was met at the end of 2011 after a very successful annual banquet. The spring semester featured two great events, the 2012 Brandon Vick Memorial Run-4-Fun and the Next Step Fundraising Breakfast.



Completed Annual Fund Projects

- Electronic sign for Jones Road
- Technology upgrades in elementary Run-4-Fun dollars
- New wall padding in the gym
- Purchase of classroom furniture
- Benevolence and scholarship funding
- Professional development for faculty and staff

Upcoming Annual Fund Projects

- New sound system in the gymAdditional classroom space for the
- 2012-2013 school year

Scan this QR Code for more information on all of the opportunities to support the mission of CCS or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Support







Know the Mission

The mission of CCS is to honor the Lord Jesus Christ by providing students an education based upon academic excellence and biblical values. Do you know what that looks like on a daily basis? The Warrior Welcome is your opportunity to hear the stories of how this mission is carried out every day and how the lives of students and families are forever changed. The Warrior Welcome is for everyone: current families, prospective families, newly enrolled families, friends, neighbors, pastors, businessmen, and anyone who believes in Christian education or wants to find out more about it. Upcoming dates and more information are available at: www.CypressChristian.org/Support/Warrior-Welcome.cfm

The Next Step Fundraising Breakfast

The Next Step Fundraising Breakfast gave friends and families the opportunity to become founding members of the Heritage Circle by committing to give a minimum of \$1,000 per year for the next 5 years to support the mission of CCS. Over 130 guests were blessed to hear compelling testimonies, learn more about the vision for the future of CCS, and view the powerful "I Am A Warrior" video. Over 40 families chose to join the Heritage Circle, and along with the support of other guests, over \$540,000 was raised in donations and five year pledges. To learn more about how you can get involved: www.CypressChristian.org/Support/Next-Step.cfm.





Over 230 elementary students took to the track – running 540 miles – to raise over \$41,000 for new technology in the elementary building. Pictured on page 32 are elementary students with over \$30,000 worth of state-of-the-art technology that would turn any classroom into a fully-digital learning environment. A large amount of the technology is portable and can be moved from room to room. The equipment will be ready for use on the first day of the 2012-2013 school year. To see the video and pictures from the event: www.CypressChristian.org/Support/Run-4-Fun.cfm.



Admissions/Save the Date

Cypress Christian School

Enrollment Hits All-Time High as CCS Heads into 35th Year



As Cypress Christian School

prepares to enter its 35th year of serving Christian families in northwest Houston, God continues to pour out His blessings! Head of School Stephen Novotny and Admissions Director Angie Ramirez are excited to announce that CCS hit all-time school records this year for enrollment, re-enrollment, and new applications received. "We are honored to educate more students than ever before, and so thankful God continues to use us to impact young lives for Christ," says Mrs. Ramirez. "To God be the glory for the great things He has done." For more information about Cypress Christian,

Admissions Information and Videos

If you missed the spring previews and open house events or just want to learn more about Cypress Christian, please visit the school website to view our Admissions Videos. You will hear special testimonies from parents, students, faculty, and administrators and gain valuable knowledge about our school. Just click on the Admissions tab at CypressChristian.org Videos page.

> To contact our Admissions Office call 281-469-7745 or email Admissions@CypressChristian.org.

please click on the Admissions tab of the school website: CypressChristian.org or contact the Admissions Department at 281-469-7745 or Admissions@ CypressChristian.org.

Cypress Christian School Recognized for Achieving Strong Results in Re-Accreditation Process

On February 3, 2012, at the Association of Christian School International's South Central Convention, Cypress Christian School was recognized for achieving strong results in its re-accreditation process and for having its accreditation status renewed for the longest



amount of time allowable by ACSI - a five year period. Accepting the accreditation certificate from ACSI on behalf of Cypress Christian School was Stephen J. Novotny, Head of School. Presenting the certificate is the chairman of the accreditation commission for the South Central Region, Ed Thomas (left), and commission member Pat Cullum.



Open House August 13

First Day of School August 14

Blue and White Night August 17

HS Football Home Opener August 31

Labor Day Holiday September 3 Warrior Welcome Tours August 14, 28 September 10, 11, 25 October 9, 23 November 5, 6, 20 December 4

Parent/Teacher Conferences Student Holiday September 14

Secondary Fall Portraits September 18 **Elementary Fall Portraits** September 20

Homecoming October 19

Thanksgiving Holidays November 19-23

Christmas Holidays December 21-January 7



Scan this QR Code to see the All School Calendar or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/Parents/All-School-Calendar.cfm

Learning Center

Learning Center Director Bridget Hughes Receives NILD Award



The National Institute for Learning Development (NILD) recently held its 30th Anniversary Conference in Orlando, FL. More than 400 NILD/Discovery therapists from all over the world met to sharpen their skills and minds to better serve students. At the conference, CCS Learning Center Director Bridget Hughes received a certificate of recognition for her work as a therapist, for providing excellence in service and leadership in the NILD organization, and for inspiring and helping other NILD educational therapists to excel in their work with students across the world. This recognition is only given once every five years in the NILD organization, and this significant achievement represents the exceptional dedication and services that Bridget Hughes has provided to students, families, and education professionals. Pictured are the 2011-2012 Learning Center Director and staff: Front row: Becky Obenland, Dana Dean, Bridget Hughes, Melanie Starbuck, Dianne Hornor; Back row: Becky DeCrosta, Kim Moon, Alicia Griffiths; Not pictured: Karen Witherow and Pam Higginbotham

Seniors Recognized at Annual Learning Center Dinner

The Cypress Christian School Huff Learning Center held its Annual Dinner on January 20, 2012. Special student speakers included CCS seniors Mischelle Aufmuth and Jacob Hicks. These students shared with elementary and secondary families how the Learning Center and the Discovery Program at CCS have helped them to overcome some of their learning challenges and boost their self-confidence as students.



Alumni



Amanda Wilhite ('11)

Amanda's mom, Cindy, turned Amanda's CCS t-shirts into a very special quilt. If you are interested in having a quilt made, please contact Cindy. See email below.

Homecoming 2012



October 19 At 7pm

Free Food
T-Shirts
Prizes
Annual Alumni Picture

Admission is Free For Graduates

CindyWilhite@CypressChristian.org



Alumni Soccer Game

The annual Alumni Soccer Game was held on December 31, 2011. Alumni who participated were Jonathan Mason ('11), Michael Teague ('10), Usman Mohammed ('11), Ashley Teague ('11), Tony Lozada ('10), and Taylor Brown ('11).

Cypress Christian Alumni













Graduations

1. Andrew Wynans ('04) Andrew graduated Summa Cum Laude and Valedictorian from South Texas College of Law. Andrew passed the bar exam and will intern for a justice in the Texas Supreme Court beginning August 2012. In April, he married Lindsey Simpson. *Fun Fact:* He is the first CCS alumnus to graduate from law school.

2. Sarah Mathewes ('06) Sarah graduated from Mid-America Christian University with a Bachelor of Science in Christian Ministry.

3. John Medendorp ('06) John received a Bachelor of Arts (Religion, Greek) from Calvin College and is pursuing a Masters of Divinity; Masters of Theology from Calvin Theological Seminary. He is employed as a religion tutor by Calvin College and attends Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids, MI.

4. Jordan Canik ('07) Jordan Canik received his Bachelor of Science in Retail Management from Texas Tech University, and has accepted a management training position for Sherwin Williams in Houston.

5. Katherine Barnett ('07) Kat graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She is an RN in the Emergency Department of North Cypress Medical Center.

6. Hunter Floyd ('07) Hunter married Carissa Cangialosi. Jon Adams ('07) was a groomsman. Hunter graduated from Liberty University in May 2012 with a B.S. in Biblical Studies and a Masters of Divinity from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Hunter is a Liberty University Online Academic Advisor. He and Carissa are founding members and leaders of Grace City Church in Las Vegas, NV. (GraceCityVegas.com) Hunter expressed his passion about the new church plant: "The Bible says that the church will be built upon Jesus and not even the gates of hell will prevail against it. We are excited to see God deliver on this promise."





7. Ryan Moon ('07) Ryan graduated from Texas A&M University earning a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He is employed by Lockheed Martin as an Embedded Software Engineer Associate developing software for the cockpit display of the F-35 Lightning II.



8. Austin Teague ('07) Austin graduated from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor with a degree in Sport Marketing. He is employed by the Houston Dynamos. Shown in photo are Austin's parents, David and Cynthia Teague and siblings Michael Teague ('10) and Ashley Teague ('11). 9. Allie Borkovich ('08) Allie graduated Magna Cum Laude from Texas A&M University earning a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and a minor in Spanish. She begins medical school this fall. "I am officially a member of the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) at Galveston's School of Medicine Class of 2016! My long-term goal is still pediatrics. I am so humbled by this opportunity and look forward to what the Lord has planned for the next four years. So many wonderful people at CCS have been extremely supportive and encouraging. My CCS education was a solid foundation which Texas A&M built upon. The Lord is flinging doors open as only He can, and I am made fully aware of HIS power in us. Second Samuel 22 says, "It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect...You stoop down to make me great." Shown in picture with Allie are brothers, Braeden ('05) and Jacob ('13).

10. Ryan Vento ('08) Ryan graduated from University of Houston earning a Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

College / Career / Ministry 11. David Alban ('02) and Stephanie Roberts

Alban ('02): David is a Database Administrator with American National Insurance in Galveston and Stephanie teaches freshman English at Clear Brook High School. They are active at Bay Area First Baptist Church and just finished serving two years as Youth Sunday School Life Group Teachers. Presently, they are mentoring young(er) couples in their life group.

12. Tim Hallila ('02) Tim has worked at Ram Chemical for five years in graphic design/marketing. He and his wife, Rachel, attend Calvary Community Church, where they helped start a newlyweds' small group and are involved in the youth ministry leading group Bible studies, beach retreats, and Disciple Now events. **Fun Fact**: Tim's mom was the first math teacher at CCS when the school opened in 1978!

13. David Gladney ('03) David and Kristen Gladney have moved to Belize to start a children's home called Samuel's Sanctuary, where basic necessities are provided as well as education and spiritual mentoring for orphaned and abandoned children. They plan to have a ministry center devoted to biblical training and discipleship, both for Belizeans and visiting mission teams. See www. antiochdallas.org/david-kristen-gladney

14. Justin Kirtley ('04) Justin and his dad, Richard, were spotted making roof repairs on the CCS campus. Check out their business at kirtleyroofing. com. Justin and wife, Natalie, are expecting their first child, Carlee, on July 29. Justin is the Worship Leader at Grace Family Church in Spring.

.....













15. Jessica Irey ('05) Jessica is attending the University of Houston-Downtown pursuing a degree in Business Management and Marketing. She works for Crest Investment Company and attends Lakewood Church. Jessica enjoys spending her extra time serving at Casa Juan Diego, a Catholic Mission for immigrants and abused women and children. Jessica says, "We do anything from cleaning bathrooms, separating food, sending out the Catholic Worker Newsletter, and working on projects with the kids." Recently, she has been working with new patients at a rehab facility mentoring others new to alcoholism and addiction recovery, which she finds extremely rewarding. (Shown in photo with Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour)

.....











(Shown in photo with Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour) **16. Lauren Riley (05)** Lauren is engaged to Clay Hamlin. "We are best friends," says Lauren, "and we both earnestly look forward with such joy at the beautiful future the Lord has in store for us." They both attend Second Baptist West Campus – which is where they met while serving on the leadership team for their Sunday class. Lauren is a cancer survivor and just celebrated her seven year mark. She is attending the University of Houston working towards a history degree and hopes to pursue her masters as well. "However," Lauren commented, "I know that I have a call upon my life for women's ministry and I will just have to see where the Lord takes me."

17. Megan Weller ('05) Megan works for our very own Houston Texans. She works with large companies who utilize the luxury suites for their clients and customers.

18. Luke Jones ('06) Luke and his wife, Sarah, and son, Myles, live in Casper, Wyoming, where Luke works for Baker Hughes.

19. Jessica Van Rieg ('06) Jessica is teaching freshman Algebra at Cy-Springs and coached at CCS during the 2011-2012 school year.

.....

20. Kristan Hinn ('07) I am currently in the last year of Baylor's "Five Year Program" for accounting students. This December, I will graduate with both my BBA in accounting and Masters of Accountancy (MAcc). Prior to and after graduation, I will be taking the CPA exam. While at Baylor, I have been blessed to participate in multiple internships. I spent three summers working with the Prison Entrepreneurship Program working in HR, Church Relations, and Development. Last summer, I worked with ConocoPhillips in the finance function and recently finished an internship with KPMG LLP. I was given the opportunity to travel to South Africa for a month-long rotation as part of my internship with KPMG. Please view pictures from my trip via the April Alumni Newsletter: www.CypressChristian.org/ News/Alumni-Monthly-Newsletter-April-2012.cfm."

21. Kelsey Salmon ('07) Kelsey is working on a Masters in Communications through Dallas Baptist University. She is employed as the Coordinator of Student Services at DBU and attends Fielder Road Baptist Church.

.....

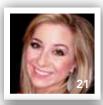
22. Caroline Carthey ('07) Caroline graduated from Oklahoma City University with a BFA in Acting. She is living in Norman, OK, and is employed at her home church, Antioch Community Church, as the College Administrator. She completed an eightmonth discipleship training program called EQUIP, which exists to equip Christians in the Word of God while cultivating a Christ-like character. In April, she traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to share the powerful love of Jesus with students of the University of Cape Town!

.....

23. Ben Thomas ('08) Ben graduated from ATM Fire Academy (TEEX) and is a Certified Firefighter and EMT. He is working on a BS in Athletic Physiology at Baylor University and volunteers as a Cy-Fair Firefighter and EMT. He works out of Station #2 that would respond to Cypress Christian School in an emergency. Shown with Ben is brother Phil Thomas – former CCS student – who works with the Harris County Sheriff Department as a deputy on the street and volunteers for the Cy-Fair Fire Dept. *Fun Fact*: Ben and Phil's mom taught at CCS and said she "gives CCS lots of credit for the strong Godly influence the teachers and staff had on her sons. Both Ben and Phil say their children will attend CCS, the Lord willing."

24. Josh Rhodes ('08) Josh left Aggieland in late March to study abroad at Kwansei Gakuin University in Osaka, Japan. Josh will graduate from Texas A&M University in December 2012.

25. Catrina Beaty ('09) Catrina expressed excitement and joy when she talked about her mission trip to Romania. Catrina wrote, "Romania has a special place in my heart. It has been a great reminder of God's miraculous ways. In June 1991, God used my parents to adopt me – an orphan in Romania - to bring me back to the U.S. to give me a future, an identity not signed with an "X," and a life filled with faith, hope, and love. Twenty-one years later, I am able to go back to Romania for the first time." Catrina said she was very happy about proclaiming the truth of God's love and His message of hope in the country where she was born. After her trip, Catrina returns to HBU (Houston Baptist University) to complete her degree in History with a minor in Christianity. Fun Fact: Catrina and her fiancé, Jeff Hull, spoke in secondary chapel in April.











Alunni

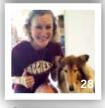


26. J.D. Davis ('10) J.D. is majoring in Sport Management at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. He was awarded the highest academic honor by being named to UMHB's Provost's List for achieving a 4.0 GPA. This summer, J.D. is traveling to Bonn, Germany, with the Sport Management Study Abroad Program and will stay with hosts from the Academy for International Education. The group will study Sport Governance and Sport Promotions/Marketing. The trip includes a visit to the Adidas and the BMW headquarters in Germany and an opportunity to study at a university which specializes in the Sport Management degree. J. D. is active in Young Life College Ministries.



27. Sarah Witty ('11) Sarah Witty was recognized for outstanding academic accomplishments by being named to the LeTourneau University Dean's List in the fall of 2011.

.....





28. Kelsie Suter ('11) Kelsie has enjoyed getting involved and making a difference at Texas A&M University. She is a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Societies and has been accepted into the National Society for Collegiate Scholars. Kelsie is also a member of the Women's Chorus, the Vice President of Creative Writers of Aggieland, and a counselor for Impact (a Christian camp for freshmen to help them connect with the Christian community at A&M.)

Weddings

29. Michael Anderson ('04) Michael married Laura Pettibon in June. He and Laura will live in Nashville, TN, while he pursues a Ph.D in computer science at Vanderbilt University and she attends Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia.

30. Braeden Borkovich ('05) Braeden married Lauren in October 2011. Braeden is employed by Verizon Wireless.

.....

.....



31. Nathan Gertson ('05) Nathan married Claire Lewis in May. They are employed by Student Mobilization at Missouri State University. *Fun Fact:* Nathan recently visited CCS to participate in a Welcome Warrior. He enjoyed reliving CCS moments and touring the campus with Claire, as well as introducing her to former teachers, coaches, and administrators. **32. Chanel Longnecker Denbo ('06)** Chanel Longnecker married Stephen Denbo (who attended Cypress Christian in middle school) at Community of Faith Church where Stephen and Chanel attend and volunteer. Chanel is the Marketing Director at Longnecker & Associates, and Stephen is the superintendent of a concrete company in Houston.

33. Kasey Witherow Goulart ('06) Kasey married Cody Goulart in December 2011. **Courtney Higgs ('06)** was her Maid of Honor, and **Kara Schroeder Walker ('06)** was a bridesmaid. Kasey and Cody live in Mississippi where Kasey is a sixth grade reading teacher at J.J. McClain Middle School. Cody works at Cimarron Mortgage Company. They are both pursuing master's degrees.

Children

34. Jennifer West Nelson ('00) and husband, Jeff, adopted Kyla Danielle in February 2012.

35. Chase Heller ('02) and **Rachel Jasper Heller ('02)** Chase and Rachel's daughter, Camryn, was born in November and will be part of the Fighting Texas Aggie Class of 2035! Gig'em!

36. Kim Bennett Knight ('04) Kim and husband, Jeff, welcomed baby Jonathan on 11-11-11. Kim says, "Thank you for your prayers. We praise the Lord everyday for our little miracle."

37. Kara Schroeder Walker ('06) and husband, Jacob, welcomed baby Caleb into their family in November.

Alumni news may be sent to Lynnette.Anderson@CypressChristian.org.













Scan this QR Code to read more about CCS Alumni or go to: www.CypressChristian.org/About-CCS/Alumni-News-and-Accomplishments.cfm



BODY BALANCE CHIROPRACTIC AND WELLNESS CENTER











Star Builders of Texas 6815 Theall Rd Suite C Houston, Tx 77066

Phone: 281-781-7144 Fax: 281-781-7124

www.starbuilderhomes.net

Leading Orthopedics & Sports Medicine in Northwest Houston

METHODIST CENTER

for Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine

We have expanded to a new facility with 25,000 square feet dedicated to orthopedic and sports medicine services that include:

Orthopedic Clinic

HOUSTON BALLET

- Sports Medicine Clinic
- Saturday Sports Injury Clinic (August-November only)
- Sports Rehabilitation (includes throwing and running lanes)
- Concussion Management
- · Same day appointments for injured athletes

Our team of experts specialize in sports injuries, hand and upper extremities, foot and ankle disorders, spine disorders, ACL repair, and arthroscopic and reconstructive surgery of the shoulder, knee, ankle, elbow and wrist. Leading care in orthopedics and sports medicine in Northwest Houston.

Methodist Willowbrook Hospital supports the Cypress Christian Warriors. Go Warriors!

13802 Centerfield, 3rd Floor • Houston, Texas 77070 281-737-2120 • MethodistWillowbrookOrtho.com

The Methodist Hospital System is proud to be the official health care provider for:

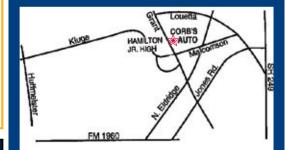


26 Years Experience Domestic & Foreign

Corb's Auto Repair

Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Al Corb 281-320-9784



12802 Grant Road Between Malcomson and Louetta





Call us and mention that you read about us in the Cypress Christian Connection magazine. **Each office is independently owned and operated. **



