

And Away We Go!

Dear Parents,

The new school year is well underway and the first marking period is just about over. We have gotten off to a tremendous start and thank God for His faithfulness and goodness! With every school year come new and exciting additions. I would like to share with you three things that I'm very excited about.

First, on behalf of all the staff, I want to welcome all our new students and their families. The best part of starting a new school year is getting to know the new members to our very special school family.

Secondly, one of the very unique things about our school is the wonderful fellowship we share together as a school community. In an effort to continue to support and nurture our "family atmosphere," our school's Advancement Team has initiated a new and exciting program. Our school's Team, made up of parents, teachers and staff, will be organizing and running a new concept called "GPS" (grade-level parent socials). The purpose of the "GPS" program is to create opportunities for parents, the classroom teacher and administration to meet in an informal, social setting in order to strengthen relationships which will improve the quality of every family's school experience. The concept is simple! Two members of the Advancement Team's sub-committee, Kim Shank and Laura

Fickes, will be working through home-room parents to organize grade-level, parent evening desserts. Our goal is that every grade would have at least one "GPS" a year, and more if possible.

Another new initiative to our school program is our recent purchase, using Scholastic Book Fair Dollars, of "Smart Response" technology. This interactive response system combines wireless remote

technology and powerful assessment software allowing our teachers to create planned or spontaneous assessments which are instantly tallied and recorded giving the teacher immediate feedback on material that was just taught. In addition to instant

feedback, this technology automatically provides assessment summaries in the form of easy-to-read pie charts and bar graphs. The school presently has twenty-four units allowing most of our classes the opportunity to use this technology.

Very soon teachers in the Middle School will be implementing this state-of-the-art instructional tool into their teaching.

I believe that our new families and new school programs are a solid testament to God's desire to move our school forward into the future! Fasten your seatbelts!

Sincerely,

Steve Taylor

Chief School Administrator

"Our new families and new school programs are a solid testament to God's desire to move our school forward into the future!"

School Calendar

OCTOBER

- 8** **Picture Day (wear your Sunday best)**
- 11** **NO SCHOOL-(Columbus Day)-No Holiday Camp**
- 14** **Fire Safety Day-PreK thru 5th**
- 15** **BOWL-A-THON (wear your class T-shirts)**
- 21** **High School Fair 6:30-8:30 pm.**
- 22** **PTF Square Dance, 6:00-9:00 pm.**
- 25-27** **5th Grade to Spruce Lake**
- 29** **PTF Middle School Fun Night 6:00-9:00 pm.**

NOVEMBER

- 4** **End of 1st Quarter**
- 5** **In-Service Day**
- 8** **2nd Quarter Begins**
- 9** **Fall Music Program (K-2nd), 7pm.**
- 9-11** **PTF Book Fair**
- 11** **Special Person's Day (K-2nd), 9:00-11:00 am.**
- 15-16** **NO SCHOOL-Parent Teacher Conferences**
- 24** **Early Dismissal, 11:45 am PreK-2nd; 12:00 3rd-5th; 12:15 6th thru 8th**



Nutrition and the Brain by Doreen Meredith

This past summer the teachers all read the book, "Teaching with the Brain in Mind" by Eric Jensen. This book contained a wealth of incredible information on the brain and learning. We have all learned some new ideas and are excited to implement them in our classrooms. I did discover something that as a parent made me say, "uh-oh, I wish I had known this when my kids were younger!" My own children are now in college and high school. I have always known nutrition was important but I confess sometimes, time and convenience would win over nutrition. I admit that as a parent of young children I was guilty of the quick fast food for dinner. Who couldn't resist after a busy day (or once a week) going through a drive through that provided dinner and a new toy for entertainment! I admit that as a parent I did not always provide the healthiest snacks for their snack break at school. Fruit roll-ups are convenient but they don't actually count as a fruit. Lastly, handling the picky eater? Lets just say I'm not the person to give advice on that one. I am relieved to say my nutrition habits have improved over the years, and my children are all doing well. I did however want to

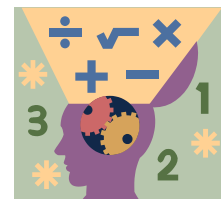
pass on some information from chapter two, that spoke to my heart.

Bullets taken from Eric Jensen's book, "Teaching with the Brain in Mind" 2nd edition:

- * The brain of a child between the ages of 5 and 12 is a brain of wonder, ready to take on new challenges, including reading, writing, arithmetic, and the world of reason.
- * Kurt Fischer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education says that children experience two growth spurts during elementary and middle school years. The first occurs around age 6 or 7 and the other around age 11 or 12. Both, he says, appear to support emerging cognitive capacities, including the ability to reason, to understand cause and effect, and to grasp abstractions - concepts like honesty, liberty, or hope.
- * Nutritional deficits have been known to decrease test scores, and nutritional supplementation has improved them (Lazoff et al., 1987).
- * One study (Haltermann, 2001) has shown that school-age children with an iron deficiency (an estimated 1 in 12 chil-

dren) were twice as likely to score below average in math compared with children with normal iron levels.

- * Another (Louwman et al., 2000) found that students with diets low in vitamin B-12 have reduced learning ability.
- * Both too much dietary fat (Greenwood & Winocur, 2001) and unbalanced diets in general (Ramakrishna, 1999) can impair cognition.
- * Are there specific foods that are particularly good for the brain? Yes, there are many - including leafy green vegetables, salmon, nuts, lean meats, and fresh fruits.
- * We may not think of water as a nutrient, but from the brain's perspective, it is. Hydration is important to the brain's normal development and functioning. The recommended amount is 8 to 12 glasses per day.
- * The foods we serve are not just feeding a child's daily energy requirements, they are shaping the child's brain!



Class Notes

New Kids on the Block—PreK

Pre-K students were welcomed with open arms by their teacher, Ms. Ferguson. They began their new school year experience with a tour of PCCS, so they would know exactly how to get to their classroom, their cubbies, the chapel and last but certainly not least, the bathroom! The students have quickly acclimated to their new surroundings and have accepted the challenge of decorating their classroom with artwork and information about themselves, including their family trees, fingerprints, footprints and self-portraits. The Pre-K class also took a nature hike, in which they spent time listening to Mr. Woodpecker work and watching Mrs. Squirrel scramble about. For the Pre-K students, the school year is off to a great start and they look forward each day to the exciting adventures that await them!

Kindergarten Favorites

The Kindergarteners were interviewed about their favorite things at school so far:
Kola: learning stuff and sing songs.
Stevie: listening to story tapes at rest time.
Gideon: playing with legos and blocks.
Aria: going to gym and playing the snow-man game.
Nina: playing with the teddy bears and pattern blocks during math lessons.
Grace: painting at the art center.
Hailey: playing with toy money and cash register.
Alana: painting
Annelise: painting and learning about numbers.
Nathan: practicing numbers and letters.
George: likes to color.
Noah: playing in the sand at center time.

Evan: playing with the 3 bears manipulatives at center time.
Joshua: reading with the teacher at centers.
Pragya: practicing writing her name.
Jeremy: watching movies on Fridays.
Nikolai: playing outside.

While in Kindergarten it may seem that we do a lot of play, this is how young children learn. We have been working on developing good listening habits as well as respect for one another. We are off to a great start!

First Grade Fun

First Grade was excited about our trip Filaski Farm. We learned about pumpkins, gourds and corn, as well as picking some to take home. We also went on a hayride and walked through a soy bean maze. Having just studied creation, it was exciting to experience God's beautiful world during our fall field trip!

Second Grade Citizens

Mrs. Templeton and Mrs. Hansel welcomed a great group of students into second grade. They made citizen licenses, complete with each student's photograph, and a signed pledge: "I will try to follow the rules of second grade." We are so pleased the the majority of the students are daily keeping their licenses under the green light of "Good Citizen".

These terrific citizens are enjoying reading stories, becoming excellent spellers, applying their math skills with hands-on manipulatives, and hiding God's Word in their hearts as they study and memorize scripture. They actively experience science as they build model volcanoes and classify rocks. The second graders especially enjoy Meet and Greet and Sharing Time, when

they learn more about the classmates. It's great fun to find common interest and to appreciate the special gifts given to each child by God. Second grade is a wonderful place to grow in mind, body, and spirit!

Third Grade

Mrs. Burton's 3rd grade class is off to a busy start to the school year. The kids are glad to be with their friends again. They are excited about what 3rd grade has in store for them and think it is cool to be in the back hallway for the first time.

First of all, the class welcomes two new students to PCCS. Sarah Socorso comes to us from the Alethea School and Bryson Cunningham from Thurgood Marshall School. Bryson likes "gym, computer, Art Club and choir the best" so far, while Sarah's favorites are "Art, Choir, and learning about God." A warm Eagle Welcome to both of them!

Mrs. Burton has great things in store for the kids this year. The children are already learning cursive and will be cursive experts by the end of the year. Third grade also begins the process of learning how to write in paragraph form. We all know how important this is as a building block for the future. And don't be surprised if you hear a 3rd grader claim to be a "Multiplication Master" by the end of the school year.

On October 14, the class will travel to Historic Philadelphia and visit some of the sites that were the cornerstone of our country's independence. The class, as well as the chaperones, are looking forward to that trip. It will be great to actually experience some of the things that we only read about in books.

So long for now from Room 114.
Watch out- 3rd Grade class is on the move!

Summer Readers

The New Castle County Summer Reading Club was a great success with 8,015 children and teens spending 148,882 hours reading between the months of June and August!

The following PCCS students participated in this excellent program. Congratulations to:


Nick Carey, Josh Fickes, Anastasia Lane,

Nikolai Lane, Alana Mays, Maggie Pate, Rebecca Richardson, Erin Schulze, Morgan Sprinkle, Daniel Walsh, Luke Wilson, and Tyler Wilson.



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Middle School Minutes

Middle School's Math Competition



This year several seventh grade students will be involved in the Delaware Secondary Mathematics League competition. They will be participating in four separate meets held once a month from November through February. They have been placed in Region 4 and will be competing against the following schools: Bayard, Conrad Schools of Science, Holy Angels, Red Lion, St. Matthews and St. Peter the Apostle. We will travel to one of the host schools for each meet. Each meet is composed of 7 individual timed questions. If our team or any individual finishes high enough in our region, they will be asked to attend the Invitational Meet held in April. Updates will be posted in future issues. Good luck team!!!!!!

Reflections



At the beginning of each school year, I ask the students to write their reflections on the year's theme verse. This year's verse is 1 Peter 5:6 "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." The results of this assignment are always fascinating, so I wanted to share some of the sixth graders' ideas with you.

This verse means to put yourself under others and put them first. And that God

will help you, not always when you want help, but when you need help doing something for others. ... Life isn't always about one person; it's about everyone from east to west, and it's their job as much as ours to be humble and put others before them. If the whole world did this, then the world would become a very, very humble place. ~Dan Ryerson

This verse means to not brag and when you're in time of need, God will help you. For example, one time in school, I had a big test and I was scared because it was so hard. I just wanted to leave school. I was so overwhelmed that I forgot all the answers. Then I calmed down and thought about what the answer was. I prayed to God really hard and remembered what I had studied. I live that out in my life because I don't brag if I get a great grade or win something. I'll be happy for myself and not brag out loud or in my head. ~Sophia Giannetta

This verse means we shouldn't act like God's equal. Obey Him and He will give you blessings later. I think it also means that He will bring you to Heaven in due time. ~Dan Walsh

When I think of this verse I think brilliance. Peter nailed it right on the head. When I think of this verse I think we should really thank and sacrifice for him and do anything we can because He

created us in His own image. We as human beings should protect all of His creation and we owe everything to Him for that very reason. ~Brandon Holly

This verse means to me that you should be humble and let God rule your life. To me, when God lifts me up, I feel joyful. Every day I try to be as humble as possible and I let God help me with all of my decisions. I love letting God rule my life because I know that, with Him, I will always be safe. I wait for God to lift me up every day so that I can be happy.

~Jenny Evans

Check back next time to see what seventh graders think!

7th Grade Science Fair

Why do we have so many stinkbugs? Where did all the oil go in the Gulf of Mexico? Many scientists are researching and experimenting to find answers to these questions. At PCCS the Middle School is full of budding scientists!

The 7th grade will be researching and experimenting on many different topics over the next 6 weeks. The results of those experiments will be displayed on Thursday, November 18th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please come and enjoy an evening of Science! All are welcome to attend!



Internet Safety by Curtis Patterson

Help keep your child safe with these internet safety tips.

The new safety basics

For a long time, Internet safety stressed 'stranger danger.' But studies have shown that only kids who were already inclined toward risky behavior were the ones likely to get into trouble. Instead, Internet safety is more akin to being a responsible driver. Kids need to understand the rules of the road so they can maximize their privacy and minimize the risks of damaging their reputations.

5 things to keep kids safe

1. Keep personal information private.
2. Use privacy settings and don't share passwords
3. Kids need to think before they post because anything can be copied, and sent broadly
4. What goes around comes around: no humiliating posts
5. It's best to self-reflect before self-revealing

Parents and teachers must guide

It's up to parents and teachers to help kids become responsible and honest citizens

of the future. That means they have to be able to apply the lessons they learn in life to their online and mobile lives. Be kind, be honest. Don't do something that would harm another. Make sure you know who and what you can trust. Be careful about what you reveal to others. We teach our kids these things every day. Let's remember to extend our parenting wisdom to their online and mobile worlds. This way we raise safe, responsible kids who can enjoy the amazing powers offered by these amazing technologies.

(taken from www.common sense.org)

Middle School History: “A Blast from the Past”

6th Grade

After reviewing the Revolutionary War from their 5th grade history class, the 6th graders delved into the colonial life in order to gain understanding about what it was like to live in those times. From dipping candles (hint: wax must cool down J), to making silhouettes, to applying for apprenticeships with master craftsmen, each 6th grader moved through eight centers during the week.

All decided that some aspects of life back in the late 1700’s would be fun, but the downside was the lack of electronics – how would they survive?! None of the students were fans of “getting up at sunrise and going to bed with the chickens”. They enjoyed this brain-targeted way of learning.

7th Grade

“God’s plan for mankind provides a thread to follow through history.” How cool to see God’s hand from the beginning (creation) and to see Him at work through the development of civilizations. That is where our ancient world history studies began. They charted their own “ancient history” by making a timeline of their lives.

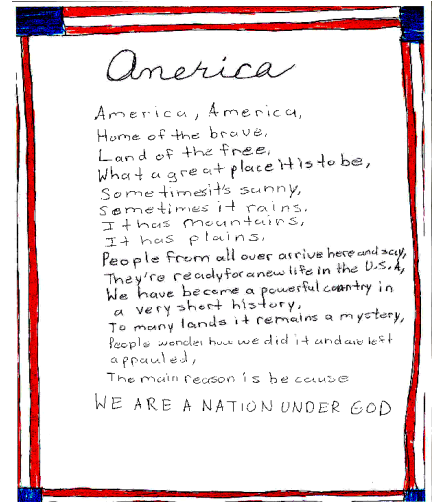
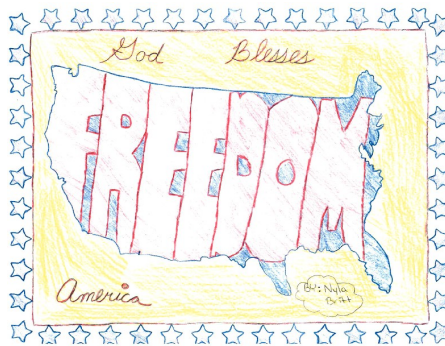
Our 7th graders have seen how civilization dispersed after the Tower of Babel following Noah’s three sons. The first civilization of Mesopotamia/Sumer

showed us many “firsts”: the wheel, the plow, irrigation systems, a system of sewer and flush toilets, the calendar, as well as the first form of writing – cuneiform. As the 7th graders soon found out, making clay tablets and writing their initials in this style with a wedge-like stylus was difficult. It has been amazing to see how advanced this first civilization was.

8th Grade

Today’s climate for politics has given our 8th graders an exciting time to discuss the study of government and civics! Discovering the importance of citizenship and the reasons for government has provided the classes with much to debate – what they love to do!

As we took time to remember September 11th, the depth of patriotic feelings were represented by the following artwork and writings.



Welcome, Mrs. Walsh! By Amber DiSanto and Greg Manley

New to P.C.C.S. this year is our new nurse Genevieve Walsh. We went and asked her a few questions about her new job and past experiences

EE: “Why did you decide to come to P.C.C.S.?”

GW: “To see you two,” she said jokingly. “I wanted to come spend time with kids, get to know them better, and help them with their healthcare concerns and needs.”

EE: “What is your background?”

GW: “I was in Pediatrics for 24 years.

I worked at a college, a hospital, inpatient rehab, surgery department, and radiology at A.I. duPont. Also, I did phone triage, and I’m a parent.”

EE: “How do you like your job so far?”

GW: “I love it; great kids, great staff, and great secretaries.”

EE: “What’s the most interesting thing that has happened during your job as a nurse?”

GW: “When I saw God move in a kid’s life that was suppose to have surgery but never ended up getting it.”

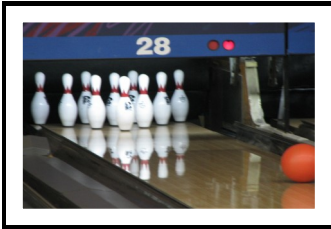
EE: “What has been the most challenging thing so far?”

GW: “Remembering everyone’s name and learning what’s important to them.”

EE: “What do you like most about your new job?”

GW: “Getting to know all the kids and coming to school with my kids everyday.”





Bowl-A-Thon 2010, held on October 15th at the Blue Hen Lanes bowling alley, was a great success!! The PTF continues to be amazed at the generosity and giving spirit of our students, faculty, families, and friends. We are truly blessed! We are nearly to our goal. As of October 18th, we have raised \$18,000.00! We will continue to accept donations through October, 29th!! Remember, if we get to our \$20,000.00 fundraising goal, Mr. Taylor will do something special for the school and there will be an extra dress down/treat day for all of our students!!!



Music, Music by Suzanne Johnson

Instrumental music is off to a great start this year! We are enjoying the addition of several new instrumentalists in the concert band, handbell choir and lesson program! If you hear sleigh bells while walking through the building, it's only because the PCCS musicians are busy preparing for the upcoming holiday concert season! Our Christmas concert will debut at Millcroft Retirement Home in early December followed by perform-

ances for chapel and an evening concert on December 14th at 7:00 p.m. at PCCS. Please save the date and join us in welcoming the Christmas season.

We look forward once again to welcoming musicians from the Delaware Symphony Orchestra as they come share music with us at school in October. On October 28, the 3rd and 4th grades will attend the Orchestra's performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's

"Scheherazade" with Cirque productions at the Chase Center on the Riverfront.

What a pleasure and privilege it is to work with the music students here at PCCS! I am blessed each and every day to watch them grow in their musical development as they enjoy God's wonderful gift of music!



Student Council News by Kelley Kempinski and Courtney Klepacki

The Student Council members are busy organizing many fun and exciting events. We have a really awesome activities planned for the Mix it up Lunch on November 19th which will include the option to purchase a Chick-Fil-A meal. School wide recycling will begin within the next few weeks as well.

One of our new projects has been World Vision. We are sponsoring a child from Zimbabwe named Felistas. She has just recently turned five years old. We will be raising money for her for the rest of the year by volunteered donations, fundraisers, and classroom Penny Wars. Penny Wars is a fundraiser where each homeroom has a jar and the students in the homeroom will bring in as many pen-

nies as possible. The competition between homerooms adds a fun element but all of the proceeds will go to World Vision to sponsor Felistas.

At the end of the second quarter, the Student Council will be going to the Food Bank of Delaware on our in-service days volunteering our time. This is an optional service project but we encourage all of the middle school students to join us! We have many more exciting things planned that are marked "classified" but it's shaping up to be a really great year!

Welcome to our new Class Reps: Jennifer Evans, Brandon Holly, Jessica Mah, Amber DiSanto and Morgan Sprinkle!

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