



PASADENA
CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL

Winter Edition 2021

Shaping Hearts and
Minds for Life for
Over 75 Years.



PCScene

A PUBLICATION OF PASADENA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



The primary mission of Pasadena Christian School is to provide its students with the academic training and spiritual nurture needed to become men and women who are worthy representatives of our Lord Jesus Christ. Working together with the family and the local church, we seek to provide our students with the foundation necessary to become people whose lives reflect an uncompromising commitment to Christ, who are people of unquestioned integrity, and who pursue excellence in whatever they do.



One of the exciting things about the New Year is that it gives us a chance to make changes and start new. As the saying goes, “out with the old and in with the new.” Unfortunately, in many ways 2021 seems to be just a continuance of 2020. We are still in the middle of a Covid-19 crisis and our political, cultural and economic worlds seem in great flux.

But we need to take heart. Psalms 30:5 tells us that “weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.” Above all else we need to be a people of hope. We need to believe that the next few months will bring change for the good and for restoration. More importantly, we need to be part of that change and restoration. Each one of us needs to ask ourselves, “what can I do to make the world a better place?” and “what can I do to be a reflection of Christ’s love and care for others?” It’s all too easy to expect the world to change around us, but maybe the change needs to start with each one of us.

One of my favorite verses is from Joel 2:25 “I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten.” It is God’s promise to us that He will restore all that has been lost to the “locust,” the many things that creep into our lives to rob and destroy all that we cherish and hold dear.

Yes, the times may be challenging and we may have lost much. But choose with me today to be a person of hope, not only for our own sake, but for our children who are watching us and will follow our example.

Steven Gray, Ph. D.
Head of School



It is hard to believe, but we are half-way through the school year! Second quarter began much like the first quarter. Students continued to learn from home as the administration and faculty worked together to create a thoughtful and strategic plan for a return to in-person learning. The PCS Covid-19 task force completed and submitted a waiver to allow students in TK-2nd grade to return to school and it was approved in November. We were ready to welcome our youngest students back to school in January, however, local health officials asked us to delay the opening given a surge in local Covid-19 cases. We know that our faculty and our families were looking forward to returning to school, but it is imperative that we follow the guidance of our state and local health officials. We will continue to work closely with the Pasadena Health Department and it is our hope that we will be able to bring all of our PCS students back to campus very soon.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. -Romans 12:12

We hold these words close as we begin the second half of the school year. Blessings to all of our PCS community!

Pauline Tcharkhoutian,
PCS Principal

In the second quarter, we continued to host activities and events the students have come to expect each year, including Parent-Teacher Conferences, Fun Fridays, Daily Devotions, High School Visits and the annual Christmas Village art project.



Mrs. Tcharkhoutian and Mr. Nelson Remain Devoted to Helping PCS Students Start Each Day Off Right!

PCS students begin each day with Mrs. Tcharkhoutian and music teacher, Mr. Nelson, for daily devotion. The all-school meeting includes a brief Bible study, a song, school announcements, birthday acknowledgements and prayer. "I love that we gather with all the students and turn our eyes to the Lord," said Mr. Nelson. "As Mrs. Tcharkhoutian closes the devotional, she says every morning, 'Let's pray and give this day to God.' I can think of no better way to start my day at PCS."



High School Entrance Exam Preparation

Each year, Mrs. Tcharkhoutian and Office Manager, Monica Smith, take eighth grade families through the high school application process. They go above and beyond to ensure PCS students are noticed by high school admission staff by coordinating and hosting an annual on-campus high school fair. Representatives from area high schools such as Flintridge Preparatory, Immaculate Heart, Maranatha, St. Francis, La Salle, and Mayfield Senior, come to PCS to meet with graduating students and to share details about their schools. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, the team transitioned the fair from an in-person event to several online meetings with high school admission staff. Throughout the months of October, November and December, each director of admission hosted a virtual tour of their high school just for PCS students. In addition, Mrs. Tcharkhoutian and Mrs. Smith helped prep students for high school interviews by hosting mock interviews and sharing a list of frequently asked questions. PCS' eighth graders are currently in the application process and will hear from high schools in March.



Mrs. Hart Continues a PCS Christmas Tradition

Nearly one decade ago, a student suggested to PCS art teacher, Mrs. Hart, that it might be a fun project to create a holiday themed house complete with snow, trees, and lights. What began as one holiday house has since grown into a PCS tradition and an extensive holiday village. Each year, students look forward to signing up for the BYH after-school art program and to finding out what magical and artful part of the village Mrs. Hart has imaged for her students to create next. Mrs. Hart, who has been teaching art at PCS for over 20 years, says "I wish I was the one who thought to make this an annual tradition! Leave it to our students to come up with the best ideas. This Christmas Village project has become one of my all-time favorites. When the students get together for the class the excitement in the room is electric!"

Fri-YAY Activities

Fun Fridays continue even at a distance. In the second quarter, we celebrated Talk Like A Pirate Day, Blue Day, Gold Day, Favorite Character Day, Disney Day and Pajama Day.



Parent-Teacher Conferences Continue at a Distance

Elementary students and teachers held parent-teacher conferences to discuss the current online learning process as well as individual student goals for learning this year. Students fully participated in each session, empowering them to have a voice in their education.



Pasadena Christian Preschool Sand in Your Shoe

Visit the preschool any day and you will find our children excavating, heaping, heaving, sifting, pouring, and learning through the magic of sand exploration and play. Whether it's digging out a trench to fill with water or heaping a mound for a volcano experiment, the children relish the dusty, dirty, gritty experience of the sand. For over twenty years, our sand has received much love and attention from our children and it was time for a change and refresh.

Through the help of a grant provided to us by Options for Learning, a child care and early learning services program through the state of California, we were able to replace the sand in both our large sandbox and younger pod box. We are very appreciative of the Options for Learning program and their support especially during these trying times.

We are also grateful for the hard work of our own Pasadena Christian School Environmental Services team. Mr. Dave Ekstrand and his crew spent three days over the holidays eliminating the old sand and replacing it with the 36 tons of new sand. While it might seem like a minor change, sand for sand. In reality it is huge with regards to the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students and staff. The children were elated to find a fresh sandy landscape awaiting them upon our return from the Christmas break. They have wasted no time fully immersing themselves by digging right in. After all, what would a day at preschool be without some sand in your shoe?



Pasadena Christian School Teacher and Staff News



Terri Deming's Lifelong Connection to Pasadena Christian School Nearly 50 years ago she attended PCS as a kindergartener and this year she celebrates 30 years of professional dedication to the school.

Mrs. Terri Deming has worked at Pasadena Christian School for more than 30 years, but the school has been a part of her life for nearly 50 years! In fact, Mrs. Deming first stepped foot on the Pasadena Christian campus in 1961 as a kindergarten student. A few years later, her younger siblings also became students at the school, where her mother, Elinore Quick, was the Junior High Home Economics teacher. "I remember helping with sewing and cooking projects," said Mrs.

Deming. "I knew I wanted to be a teacher so I really enjoyed these times together with my mother in class."

Mrs. Deming's own children, Sheri, who also teaches at the preschool, Deborah and Johanna, also attended PCS.

When her youngest daughter started kindergarten in 1990, an opportunity arose to work at PCS' aftercare program, The Big Yellow House. "I worked primarily with kindergarteners and loved it. I knew I wanted to teach little ones so I enjoyed this work immensely."

In 2000, while still employed at The Big Yellow House, Mrs. Deming's husband passed away. As a result, Mrs. Deming made the decision to follow her passion. She began taking classes at Pasadena City College to earn her early childhood degree. Mrs. Deming continued to work at BYH while in school and upon graduation was encouraged by Sharon Sakai, the former director of the BYH, to apply for a job at the preschool. Mrs. Deming was hired in 2004 as the team leader of the "outdoor classroom," curriculum that is held outside, and continues in that role today.

"Working in a Christian community is a dream come true. Having the freedom to share the love of God with others, to pray with others, to sing songs of praise is a blessing we should never take for granted," said Mrs. Deming. "I truly love all the children at the preschool and the best parts of my day are playing with them. My role is to help them become successful young people who have a heart for the Lord."





I will instruct
you and teach
you in
the way you
should go;
I will counsel
you with my
eye upon you.
-Psalm 32:8



Mrs. Genine Smith celebrates 25 years at PCS School For 25 years, she's been the first face parents see when they come to PCS and the person students go to when they need a band-aid.

Whether she's welcoming parents with a smile, putting a band-aid on a student's scratched knee, or helping with a jammed copy machine, Front Office Assistant Genine Smith helps ensure the PCS front office runs smoothly. "I enjoy being in the front office where I can interact with our parents and students," said Mrs. Smith. "It's such a joy to watch the students come through the office, even if it's only to get a band-aid or just to say 'Hi, Mrs. Smith!' I have watched so many of them literally grow up at PCS. It's very special."

This year, Mrs. Smith will celebrate her 25th anniversary as a part of the PCS family, however, like Mrs. Deming, Mrs. Smith had a personal connection to the school long before she became an employee. Her younger brother, Derek Locklin, attended PCS in the 1990's and her own children, Camille and Jordan, attended PCS from kindergarten through eighth grade. It was when her daughter Camille enrolled in PCS that she began to think about employment at the school.

"PCS was always a very special place and I knew I wanted to be a part of my kids' educational journey so I hoped I'd find a role at the school," said Mrs. Smith.

A position as an aide became available and Mrs. Smith was hired by the principal, Jackie Bailey. Since that time, Mrs. Smith has served as an aide in different grades, been an assistant in the business office and, for the last six years, has been the Front Office Assistant. Twenty five years later, Mrs. Smith is still glad to be a part of the PCS family.

"I enjoy going to work every day because it is a place where I enjoy being with my coworkers and the children and their families. I am thankful for Jackie Bailey, Dr. Gray, Mrs. Tcharkhoutian, Monica Smith and countless others who have encouraged me and helped me make my way. I always pray for this school and for the people that make it so special."

Development Update

Raising funds for the school and its mission to shape the hearts and minds of students

The second quarter was a very exciting and busy time for the PCS development department. The team wrapped the Boon Supply fundraiser, launched the school's Annual Fund Campaign, collaborated with Mrs. Allen on a special Grandparent's Day presentation, and submitted various grant proposals.

PCS Receives a Grant from The Ahmanson Foundation

We are proud to announce that Pasadena Christian School recently received a \$90,000 grant from The Ahmanson Foundation. Funds from the grant will be used to renovate the transitional kindergarten and elementary school restrooms. Some of the improvements will include installing automatic and contactless products, ensuring that the space is American Disabilities Act-compliant, and integrating a playful, child-friendly design. The Ahmanson Foundation has been an incredible supporter of PCS over the past 20 years and has previously provided grants that have supported the construction of the library, the junior high building, and provided computers for the computer center. We are so very thankful for their partnership, and grateful for their support of our mission and our school.

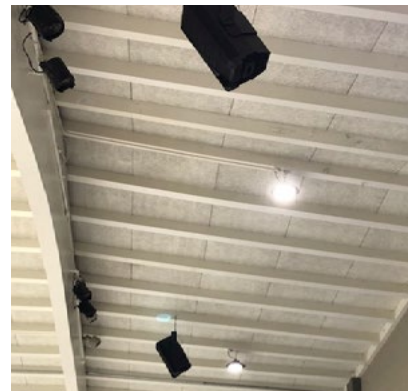
Dr. Gray Cheers on the PCS Annual Fund

The Annual Fund is the primary and most critical fundraising priority at PCS because funds raised through the Annual Fund campaign comprise a part of the school's annual operating budget. Donations to the Annual Fund are not assigned to a specific project. Instead, these funds impact every aspect of the school, from financial aid to faculty professional development, academics to athletics, technology to the arts, improvements to infrastructure. This year, Dr. Gray issued the "Dr. Gray Annual FUNd Challenge," and celebrated our school's fundraising achievement with a special video starring Dr. Gray and our PCS Cheerleaders. Thanks to Mrs. Johnson and Josh Monteroso for their help in making the video possible. And thank you, our PCS family, for your contributions to the school!

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" - James 1:17

Development Project Update: New Audio System Installed

Throughout the year, families and students regularly assemble in the PCS auditorium to watch and participate in a variety of programs, including Chapel, Grandparents Day, and the Spring Musical. The students and faculty who lead these events all depend on the sound system to amplify their message and performance. In 2019, development began raising funds to improve the outdated sound system and today, we are happy to share that the new sound system has been installed. The new system, which includes wireless products, mixers, microphones, amplifiers, video screens and more, is designed to deliver high-performance sound that is ideal for school assemblies, music performances, theater productions, meetings, pep rallies and more. This project is the result of donations made to the school by many generous members of our PCS community and would not have been possible without their support. We look forward to the day when we can all be together on campus to gather and worship and share the good news together!



Grandparents Day

Each year, Pasadena Christian School welcomes hundreds of grandparents and “grand friends” to campus to experience their student’s “home away from home.” It’s a very special day for all of us and one that we look forward to celebrating each year.

Although we were unable to host the annual event this year, the development department worked with chorale teacher, Barbara Allen, to create a special video presentation to bring the joy of Grandparents Day home. The video featured an introduction by Dr. Gray, and included a music video featuring various students, faculty and parents singing “You Raise Me Up.” It was one way to let our grandparents know how much they mean to us. They truly raise us up!



Teach us to number our days, that
we may gain a heart of wisdom.
-Psalm 90:12

The relationship between grandparents and grandchildren

Grandparents have a special relationship in a child’s life. They share wisdom, life experiences, and love, passing on a legacy to their children’s children.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

- 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Community Strong

Alumni Updates From Around The World



A Star Was Born at PCS

Ingrid Rekedal's family has strong ties to PCS. Her mom, Vicki Rekedal, was a teacher's aide in Mrs. Tcharkhoutian's first grade class, and Ingrid's sisters, Ellen and Audrey, also attended the school. Ingrid currently lives in New York City where she is a professional actor, singer, and dancer. "PCS' music and theater programs largely shaped the career I've chosen. From my very first solo in Kingdom Kids to my role as Belle in the 2007 Spring Musical, Beauty and the Beast, I've been hooked on music-making and story-telling." Ingrid credits her PCS teacher, Barbara Allen, as her inspiration. "Barbara is still one of my dearest mentors. Her belief in me and high standard of achievement cultivated my

drive and courage to pursue performance professionally." When not on stage, Ingrid can be heard on the podcast she created with her mom, Hug and a High Five, discussing how to navigate the mother-daughter relationship from childhood to adulthood. "We often reflect on the PCS days and the way they informed who I am today as a young adult." You can find Hug and a High Five on Apple podcasts.



A PCS Education Can Lead to Fun and Games

The Scheidler family is synonymous with PCS. Bryan and his three siblings attended PCS in the 1990's. Bryan's wife, Megan, also attended PCS and graduated in 1995. Their three children (Logan, Luke and Lily) attended PCS until recently when the family moved out of state. They also have two nephews (Jack and Finn) who are current students. Bryan is a property manager for DPS Software, but his real passion is board game design. In fact, Bryan and Megan have spent the past two years designing their first board game, completing the project in October. "This is the first of what I hope will be many games for our new board game business, Good Nerd Bad Nerd Games." Bryan credits PCS with contributing to his success because the school offered such a wide variety of classes. "From

sports to performing arts, PCS offered a lot of variety and I was challenged to try new things," said Bryan. "Learning to challenge myself would play an important role in me launching my podcast and news outlet, Good Nerd Bad Nerd, and ultimately in the creation of this game." The game is called "The Treasure of Montecristo Island" and can be found at <http://www.montecristogame.com>.



This PCS Alumnus Always Has Something Cooking

William "Bill" Kefalas is a restaurateur, a property owner, a current member of the PCS Board of Directors and a former PCS student. Bill attended PCS with his brother and sister. His wife, Anastasia, is a Junior High classroom aide and his daughter, Anna, is a current PCS student. Bill's daughter, Maria, and son, George, are PCS graduates. Bill co-owns The Only Place in Town, a popular restaurant located in Sierra Madre, California, and a catering company which provides hot lunch to the PCS faculty and students, in addition to other schools throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Bill also co-owns and operates a property management and real estate investment company and is in the process of launching a fishing-themed clothing company, which has grown out of his passion for the sport. Bill says his time at PCS was very

formative. "I was blessed with teachers that were nurturing and encouraged me to be the best I could be," said Bill. "The greatest takeaway from my time at PCS was the environment that was fostered there. The diversity of the student body, families and staff was and is something I cherish. It has given me a perspective that I find very valuable." Bill's advice to students, "Always put God first in everything you do. Ask questions and listen well. Choose your friends wisely, and make sure their values are the same as yours."

You can learn more about Bill's businesses here: The Only Place in Town Restaurant: www.theonlyplaceintown.com
Psara Fishing: www.psarafishing.com Anoakia Property Management www.anoakiaproperties.com

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

-Matthew 5:16

Alumni Relations

Stay connected with your PCS family, no matter where you are in the world! We'd love to hear how you are doing, know about any changes to your contact information, and share any updated information with former classmates and the rest of our school community. Just send the following information to development@pcs.school.

Date: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Phone: _____ Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Children: _____ Spouse: _____

Occupation and Employer: _____

What would you like to share in the PCS Alumni News Section: _____

Connect with Pasadena Christian School on Social Media! Social media is a fun way to stay connected with alumni and staff in the PCS community. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/PasadenaChristianSchool and on Instagram at Instagram.com/Pasadena_Christian_School. You can also stay connected to the Preschool on the blog, PasadenaChristianPreschool.com and on Instagram at Instagram.com/Pasadena_Christian_Preschool.



Did you know you could help earn thousands of dollars for Pasadena Christian School just by shopping at Amazon? That's right! PCS earns a portion of your purchase every time you shop at Amazon when you've selected PCS as your charity of choice through Amazon Smile.

All you have to do is log on to your own Amazon account, either online or through the app, and type "Amazon Smile" in the search bar. Click on the Amazon Smile button and follow the simple instructions to select Pasadena Christian School as the charity/organization. You'll be earning money for the school every time you shop, at no additional cost to you. It's that easy. If you have any questions, please contact the development team at development@pcs.school.

