

PCA POST



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News of the Nest

Interview with Christian Barnes

by Izzy Stevens



This past week, I had the privilege of getting to sit down and chat with Christian Barnes, a senior and a running champion at our school. Christian runs cross country, along with both indoor and outdoor track. During our conversation, he expressed how he had run in middle school but stopped in ninth grade. However, he decided to pick it up again when he came to PCA sophomore year, and thank goodness he did! Christian said a highlight from his high school career was making All New England. He said that the moment he crossed the finish line, he ran into his dad's arms and thanked God for an amazing opportunity. When asked about his plan for after high school, he said he would continue to run at Samford University in Alabama. He said he'd always seen himself running for a college, and he has many personal goals he is excited to pursue. Christian said that while at PCA, he learned that discipline is fundamental for success. He encourages the rest of the team to put in the work, knowing that positive results will follow. Finally, Christian expressed how he is going to miss the environment and community once he leaves for college. He describes PCA Track as one big family. As Christian moves towards college, he hopes to “trust in the Lord, because I know he has a plan for me.” He says the Lord will be there through his struggles and will never leave, no matter where he goes.



Interview with Ava Buchanan

by Viola Fillion



Ava Buchanan is one of our seniors here at PCA, and she recently finished her final season of basketball as an Eagle. She has been playing basketball since she was in kindergarten, and she's played as a point guard here on our team. This year, she broke the school record for the most points scored, and she was voted the Division IV Player of the Year. After PCA, she will be heading to Messiah University to continue her basketball career. She's very excited to play for them, as Messiah's Falcons are a well-known team, having won many championships.

When speaking about her experience as a whole, Ava mentioned that discipline and perseverance are important traits to foster. Playing a sport isn't only for the season; practice during the offseason is just as important. Ava also highlighted the importance of community and the whole group's attitude. The culture the team builds determines so much, and the passion and love within the team is what truly makes it a family. Ava is so thankful for the family she helped build here at PCA, and she is excited to move forward and pave a new path at Messiah.

As she goes out from here, we want to remind her that she has a special place in our hearts, and we are praying for her next steps. You will always be an Eagle, Ava, and we are so excited to see what you do next.



Student Life

31st Annual Auction by Abby Hammer

On Saturday, March 21st, PCA's 31st Annual Auction was held. The reason we hold the auction is to raise money for variable tuition, which enables half of our student body to attend PCA. As a student, it was truly incredible to see how many people came out to support our student body. Students served in guest relations, helping with parking, aiding teachers in Lower School classrooms, as well as assisting with catering.



Speaking from the staff perspective about the auction, Mr. Foley mentioned, “It is the most important community event of the year. It brings together parents, students, faculty, and volunteers; without it, we would not be able to have half of our students.” Our faculty were incredibly grateful, and Mr. Foley expressed this by recognizing the different types of people who all share the common goal of supporting our community. On a similar note, Mr. Heckelmann spoke of how the auction ties into our current focus on compassionate community. He said, “People’s giving really exemplifies the meaning of compassionate community. Whether they are closely tied to our students or not, these people that God has blessed are choosing to bless others.”



I also had the honor of speaking with our lovely Dean of Women, Mrs. Shoemaker, about her experience with the auction as a PCA parent. For her, the auction represents the opportunity that enables her to send her children to PCA. She expressed what we all feel, saying, “I am so thankful for the PCA community and especially the PCA Upper School students that serve at the auction and make a tangible impact on my family and our community at large.”



Day of Service by Sophia Workman

The Upper School Day of Service is a recently implemented event designed to give purpose to the students at the Upper School as they attend Auction Day. Upper School students were tasked with various service areas that would help our school and the broader community. Examples of this included service at the lower and middle schools, where students helped during middle school recess and acted as classroom buddies for lower school students. Eli the Eagle also made appearances in lower and middle school classrooms and brightened the day of many PCA students. At the Upper School during the second half of the day, students broke into groups, each making substantial impacts. One group made fleece blankets for unhoused people in the community, while another group aided local animal shelters by making dog leashes and cat toys. PCA staff and faculty received encouragement as an additional group of students wrote thank-you notes. Finally, students went around the Upper School cleaning, focusing on the Troiano closet and outside areas. Mrs. Sporko, one of the leaders of this event, when asked how the day went, said this “feels like we are settling into a new rhythm, and it is a joy to serve alongside students! My favorite part was hearing the enthusiastic stories of recess at the Lower School. In totality, the day was a major success and truly followed the vision and purpose for the day.”





Worship Night by Lucy Arico



The All-School Worship Night is a powerful time where the entire PCA community can come together to worship, but it takes a lot of preparation! The band started practicing about three weeks prior to this event. The preparation was organized by Catarina Hutt and Christian Barnes, the Spiritual Life Prefects, along with Chloe Tan, the worship team leader. To start, we met to discuss song choices and organize a practice schedule. In practice, we determine who sings which part and how we will organize and perform each song. This has been a super cool process, and as we approached the event, we prayed that this night glorifies God!

What a success! The night was so powerful, with several scripture readings touching on the events leading up to the resurrection and a meaningful time of prayer. The worship team sang a mixture of fast and slow-paced songs, allowing people the opportunity to worship in whatever way they might be moved to. The estimate is that over 200 people attended, a count which includes students, faculty, family members, and friends! It was truly inspiring to see the way our school community joyfully celebrates the Lord and what He has done for us. What a powerful way to praise the Lord and recognize His great love as we approach Easter! Praise be to God!





Teacher Feature



Ms. N
By Sienna Littlefield

This week, I had the pleasure of interviewing Ms. Ngamcharoenthana for this edition's Teacher Feature. When she was asked about what aspect of her job brought her joy, she replied that it is talking with everybody who comes into her office, both students and faculty members. This answer related to another question, asking what makes her job meaningful. To this, Ms. N responded that it is the community that she gets to experience firsthand. Since many students hang out in her office, Ms. N gets to see a different and deeper perspective of student life here at PCA. She also says that this means she gets to help students by sharing her positivity. Another way she sees the value in her work is by helping students through giving them tidbits of wisdom about planning their futures. One way she offers advice is by reassuring students that there are a lot of options out there and that not everybody will take the same routes. She encourages students to walk through the doors God opens instead of trying to force themselves through ones that are closed. Lastly, on a lighter note, Ms. N described her ideal vacation as a trip to Ireland to experience the culture and see the rolling hills and majestic castles. Plus, the lack of a language barrier helps too!

Mr. Hasty
By Bianca Wibowo

This week, I interviewed our College Planning Guidance Counselor and Niagara Falls mission trip leader, Mr. Hasty! He finds a lot of joy in his job, expressing the adoration he feels for the team he works with, as well as the amazing opportunity to engage with students as he walks alongside them and their families. It brings him joy to see how the Lord is leading them as they figure out their calling in life. To Mr. Hasty, what makes his job meaningful is the fact that he gets to advise students throughout their academic journey, helping to refine their vision as they consider their gifts and role in God's kingdom. When asked to give a piece of advice for students as they consider their futures, Mr. Hasty suggested having confidence in God and to trust in his leading. As we know, Mr. Hasty is leading a mission trip to Niagara Falls this April, so I asked him about what called him to lead. He said he had the experience of leading these trips before and feels that it's important for students to step into serving and to use their gifts in ways that are tangible. He chose Niagara Falls specifically because he wanted to be able to drive there in a day and to allow students to serve in a similar environment to the one we live in currently. Finally, I asked him about what he hopes will come out of this trip, and he shared that he hopes students and staff will develop the desire to serve others for the sake of the gospel and that they will impact the culture at PCA as we consider how to operate in compassionate community. Also, during the interview, Mr. Hasty also revealed that he is a Red Sox fan and that his shoe size is a men's 9.





Devotion on Easter

By Anna Tolley

Matthew 26:39 - "Going a little farther, Jesus fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

None of us can fully understand what Jesus was going through in this moment. He was about to take the weight of the entire world's sin on His shoulders. He was not only about to be mocked, tortured, and crucified, but also endure separation from His Father. Before taking this weight upon Himself, Jesus prayed alone. He was deeply troubled with the task ahead of Him. He knew that it was necessary and that it was God's perfect plan. Even still, Jesus begged the Lord to take "this cup" from Him.

Sometimes in life we face challenging times. We wonder how God could put us through these trials, and we ask Him to save us from them, just like Jesus did. However, Jesus did not end the prayer there. He finished "yet not as I will, but as you will." Jesus chose to trust God, even though He knew this path would be more difficult than anything He had ever experienced. He wanted to be saved from this suffering, but Jesus left it in the Lord's hands.

God will allow trials to happen to each one of us, and they will not be easy. However, if we follow Jesus's example and put our trust in God, He promises to walk with us and guide us. Jesus was not defeated by the grave, but He rose again. Jesus fulfilled His purpose by following God's sovereign plan, even when it was extremely difficult. This Easter, I challenge you to pray to the Lord and speak to Him about your trials and what is troubling you. Then, end by putting your trust in Him. Say to the Lord, "yet not as I will, but as you will." If you put your trust in Him to lead and guide you, He promises to give you peace each step of the way. Follow Jesus's example this Easter and put your faith in the God who loves you and created you for a purpose.



Fine Arts

Festival Recap

By Viola Fillion

The Festival show is a unique experience we have here at PCA. It's our second of three shows, but this one is different because of the fact that we compete. This year, our show is called *Back Cover*, by Emily Hageman, and it is directed by Vanessa Fillion. The start of the festival show was a lot like the fall show, with auditions and rehearsals starting as normal. However, performing the show is incredibly different. This year, Festival was held at Pittsfield High School. Five different schools showed up to perform one-



act plays that they had been working on. One by one, the schools would perform their shows for the other schools and a panel of adjudicators. After the show, the judges would give the cast and crew feedback before the next show began. In between the shows were gatherings called forums, where you could ask questions and receive feedback from actors and crew members from other schools. This year, a few of our actors led forums, and they were able to help serve in a new and important way. After the performances were over, there was an awards

ceremony to recognize and honor actors and crew members who went above and beyond. This year, our lighting director, Richard Du, and one of our leading actresses, Lyla Gartner, were given awards for excellence in their respective areas. After the awards were handed out, there was an announcement about which schools would move on from Regionals to States.

For the first time in years, PCA will be moving on to States. The competition will be held at Gilford High School on April 10th and 11th. This process is a lot longer than Regionals, which is why it is held over two days. There will be nine schools instead of five, and only two can move on to New England's. Our PCA players have been practicing, refining, and preparing for the next stage of this tournament, and they are excited to perform again and show the adjudicators how much they have improved.

Representing PCA at Festival is an incredible privilege. Not only do we learn more about our craft, but we get to foster relationships with people who have the same interests and help support them, all while shining the light of Christ. Festival is not a Christian event, and PCA is the only Christian school to attend. In a secular space, the team really comes together to represent not only our school, but also our Savior well.



Eagle Eyes

Isabella Sotir by Linnie Ngamcharoenthana

As the third quarter drew to a close, I had the esteemed honor of talking with my good friend Isabella, though we all fondly know her as Sotir. She is a junior and has attended PCA for five years. She is multi-talented and enjoys volleyball, piano, and painting. She particularly likes volleyball because she has been able to do it with her younger sister, as well as teammates that she loves. As the seasons change and the buds struggle to push through any remaining snow, I asked Sotir what she likes about the spring season at school. She told me that she enjoys how everything starts wrapping up and enabling her to take the time to focus and study for finals, something which she finds relaxing. Throughout this school year, something which Sotir has grown to appreciate is time spent with her sisters, especially as she's had a lot more schoolwork than previous years and is even now looking ahead to college. She's also grateful for her community at PCA and the way the students connect with one another. She has seen compassion in action this year through prayerful encounters between peers; she sees people coming alongside one another boldly and considerately. One place where this was specifically evident was at the Upper School Night of Worship earlier this school year. It is abundantly clear that we can take joy in the blessing of our community here, and I am so thankful Sotir is a part of it!

James Peavey by Maeve Bowden

This week I got the opportunity to chat with the one and only James Peavey! He is a freshman here at PCA, and this is his second year coming to our school. In his free time, James loves playing sports and going fishing with his friends and family. As spring has commenced, there are many incoming blessings that come with the change of season. James told me that his favorite thing about springtime is getting to see all of the flowers and signs of life return as the days become longer and weather becomes warmer. It is nice to see how the mood improves in those around us in our community as the world brightens day by day. As the end of the school year is upon us, I asked James if he has grown to appreciate anything in particular over the course of this year. James told me that he has seen a growth in connections with his classmates at lunch and in his classes, which has improved his school experience as a whole. Lastly, when asked about how compassion has been seen in action this year, he said that he has seen a strong sense of camaraderie within the community, as everyone around him is always willing and happy to help out when assistance is needed. Seeing the growth so far this year within our student body, we can continue to lend support to one another and spread joy through our actions.



