



CENTER PLACE RESTORATION

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School



March / April 2016

PARENT VOICES

On the evening of March 8, parents from the CPRS community gathered for a facilitated conversation, hosted by facilitator Daniel Cash. The purpose of the evening was to provide a safe and inviting environment where parents could share honestly and openly about their experience at CPRS in the presence of the Board of Trustees and Administration. The conversation that Cash facilitated was not between the parent community and administration, however. It was, instead, a conversation among members of the parent community—the Board and School Administrator were present only to listen, not to speak.

The evening turned out to be just what I had hoped for as administrator—a constructive and forward-thinking exchange among parents. Over the years, I

have watched as families have come and gone, passing through the CPRS experience in a matter of only a couple years, while others have remained intact as part of the school community. As I have interviewed families over the years in regards to their reasons for leaving the school, I have often wondered how their participation might have been different if they had been given the opportunity to share their thoughts and concerns with other parents in a positive setting—one where administration has the opportunity to listen and where parents have the chance to ask questions of one another and build consensus around ideas that they hold in common.

At the close of the facilitated conversation, parents

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participated in an activity in which they prioritized the topics discussed throughout the evening. Part of the services Daniel Cash offers is to compile, organize, and reproduce information from the session for administration so that the results from the evening are accessible and usable, rather than a vague memory of a flurry of participation.

The top priority for parents, far above every other topic discussed that night, was the cost of school uniforms.

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1ST ANNUAL GOLDEN EAGLE 5K - My Experience

After working as a volunteer at the CPRS Fireworks Tent in June and July last summer, I began to wonder if there was even more that could be done to help raise funds for the school. I decided to make it a matter of prayer, to see if there was some part I could play, not realizing what God had in store for us all. In a few short days, the idea of the Golden Eagle 5k came to mind, and I shared the idea with John Larson, who was in favor of the idea. He asked that I come up with something formal to present to the school board, so I continued to make this a matter of prayer, that I might be led to where I needed to go in order to begin the process.

I spent a couple days researching how to host a 5k run/walk and made contact with the organization we partnered with to host the race. After some initial conversations with them, as well as the vendor for the t-shirts and medals, I had put together a rough budget proposal to present to the school board. I was definitely guided by the Holy Spirit through this entire process, as different groups were quick to respond to my inquiries for pricing, information, and assistance.

I met with the school board in September last year,

and presented the formal proposal to them, including the budget and goals. They discussed it and got back to me a week later with the official "go-ahead" to host the 5k fundraiser. I reached out to all my contacts and got everything ordered (t-shirts, medals, race-day equipment, medical support, etc.) within a couple months.

The first of many blessings to unfold throughout this process occurred when I talked with our event coordinators, Race Day Timing Solutions. They ended up sending me a "race-director tool-kit," which guided us through every step of the race. This was a tremendous help to keep us on track and fill in some of the gaps. The second blessing is related to our generous corporate sponsors. I went in with mild expectations of obtaining any corporate sponsorship, but was tremendously blessed when a couple early sponsors stepped up in a big way. As I reached out to some businesses I knew would be friendly towards our efforts, I continued to receive positive responses and support. When all was said and done, the corporate sponsors covered just over 86% of our race expenses,

allowing us to have a very profitable event.

The next blessing was how many participants we had. My big-reach goal was to get 250 participants involved, while my medium-goal was 100. When we were less than three weeks away from the race, we still only had about 60 signed up. I began to pray more earnestly, and everyone responded in a big way! We finished with 105 registrations, with 95 of them showing up on race day. A big "Thank You!" to all the participants, because you made this a huge success!

Race Day was a tremendous success, despite the cooler temperatures at the start of the race. Everyone showed up with a great attitude and appeared to have a great time of fellowship before and after the race. Everything went very smoothly the day of the race for setup and preparation, which took a lot of the stress off my shoulders. I want to especially thank the volunteers who helped with packet pick-up, setting up the aid stations, and helping with the various

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"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power and love..."

11 Timothy 1:7

Thankfully, the Board of Trustees recently took up the subject of uniform expense and has spent the last few months putting together a reevaluation procedure to review our current vendor and uniform pricing options. This procedure will span the summer months as information from the recent parent survey is compiled and research is conducted in regards to uniform pricing and style options. Sometime next fall, during the last school year of the current uniform contract, the Board will make a decision and develop a plan to implement whatever changes—if any—are necessary to the current uniform policy.

The second most important topic to parents was a concern about how students' education might be compromised because of the large number of courses taught by individual teachers in the secondary level. Certainly at CPRS, our teachers are in charge of more courses than at most schools where a middle school math teacher might teach four sections of Math 6 and two sections of Math 7. Instead, our teachers often teach upwards of six separate courses. The only courses that are taught in separate sections are those that have a weighted counterpart for ad-

vanced level studies or the Algebra I course, which is taught at the 8th grade level in addition to the high school level.

Having teachers who are individually responsible for so many classes is one of the side effects of attending such a small school. The upside to having a teacher who is in charge of six separate courses is that you also have small classes. This past year, our classes averaged 14 per grade level. At the high school level, we average only 9 students per course over 46 courses currently active this spring semester. While our teachers certainly have their plates full with six courses to prepare, they also are able to offer personalized attention because of our small class sizes.

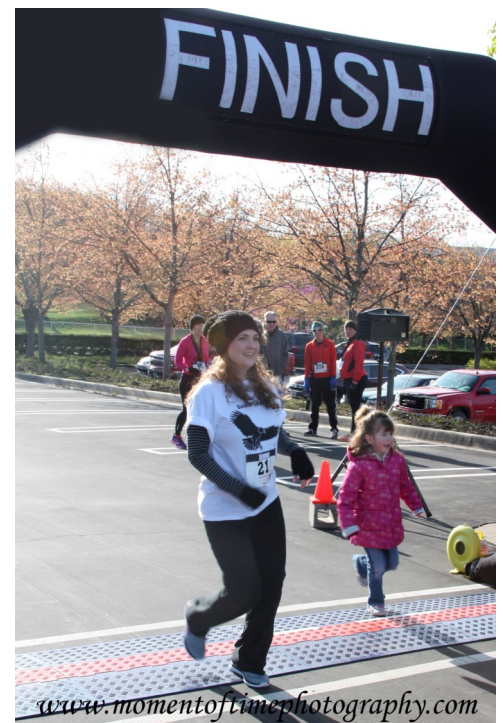
The most popular positive comments for the night included CPRS's religious atmosphere, the close relationships families can have with faculty and staff, the shared values in the CPRS community, and how much the school values the students. My hope, as the school continues to improve, is that opportunities such as this spring's facilitated conversation will create a closer tie and increased understanding between participating families and the school board and administration.

John Larson
School Administrator

activities at the start/finish line (handing out medals, helping with same-day packet pick-up, clean-up, etc.). Everyone pitched in and displayed a great willingness to come together to support a worthy cause with joy and zeal. It was great to see and to be a part of.

I look forward to seeing how next year's event goes, and hope to see you all out there! Thank you for your support and prayers for this endeavor – it has meant a lot to all of us involved! Finally, I want to give all the glory, honor, and praise to our God in Heaven, for He has blessed this event mightily, and I am so thankful for His willingness to work with us when we are anxiously engaged in a good work.

Robert Gillam
Race Director, Golden Eagle 5k



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Visit us at



FROM THE BEGINNING

Dr. John A. Smith was the first administrator for CPRS and he was the one that hired me, so I have seen many changes through the years. The Lord has blessed CPRS with good, solid leadership with each new administrator making positive additions and policies that have improved the quality of education for the students. Many upgrades have been made to the building, including a new library and a new clinic. Long ago, we used to eat lunch in the gym, which had a tile at that time. I have seen families, faculty, staff, boards, and administrators come and go, and happily some families have returned bringing with them the next generation of students. One change that I am personally grateful for is that the first kindergarten teacher had the foresight to request that a wall come down between two rooms to enlarge the kindergarten, giving us more room to spread out!

There have been many changes over the years, some for the betterment of the school, and some not so much. The most unfortunate changes that have come upon the school are because of sin. These sins cause divisions and the divisions cause ripple effects that are most damaging to the work of the Kingdom. But time and time again I have seen the Lord bless, working especially through the student body to lay aside the differences and

bring harmony. **I believe with all my heart that God is pleased when He sees the youth accomplishing this forgiveness and Christ-like love that can and does abound in the school. For it is only through this kind of love that the Kingdom will come.**

I'm excited when I see students old or young from various backgrounds working together, fostering friendships, not hindered by the "issues" but focusing on the goals before them. If only we all could learn from the example that some of our children set for us. In my current kindergarten classroom, I can count 5 different churches represented among 12 students. No child dislikes another because of these differences. What a marvelous thing to witness! This is true throughout the school!

Our kindergarten play every year is "If Jesus Came to My House." The message of that play is about **loving others as if they were Jesus Himself**. It's about doing those things that we ought to do like helping others, attending church, worshipping God, and praying. Keeping our hearts centered on these things would make such a difference to the church, CPRS, and the Kingdom. As the scripture reads, "A little child shall lead them."

*Mary Postlethwait
Kindergarten Teacher*