



CENTER PLACE RESTORATION

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School

October 2015

REACHING BEYOND OUR WALLS

This morning, as I was working in the front office, the high school choir poured in through the main office door and filled up our workspace—and then proceeded to offer a melodious rendition of Happy Birthday to Mrs. Schmidt. As soon as they finished, Mrs. Coffman announced it was time to “go back to class and get some work done.” As the students left, having brightened the faculty’s morning and probably their own, I thought about the work they were returning to and the very important work they had just done. How would their good cheer ripple across their peer groups in their interactions throughout the day? What immeasurable effects would result from their decision to take class outside of the classroom for only a few minutes on one autumn morning?

The high school choir’s act of kindness this morning caused me to wonder how students were reaching beyond the walls of other

classrooms in the school—how are they offering a gift or blessing to others outside their immediate learning spaces? As it turns out, students reach out in a number of ways. The 5th grade meets with the 3rd grade every Friday to work with their math buddies, help develop their understanding of math concepts, and put together special activities such as the Properties of Addition math skit. The 1st grade also meets with the 5th grade once a week to spend time with their reading buddies. The 8th graders meet with their reading buddies in the kindergarten class once a month in the library to share stories with each other.

Classroom walls are not the only walls student reach beyond, of course. The CPRS mission statement consists of three objectives, the third of which is “to equip students with the skills necessary to excel in society and assist in the establishment of Zion.”

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If our students were not involved in their community and reaching outside the walls of the school, they would be ill prepared to engage their world as a light for the Lord. Already this fall, students have begun making an impact both locally and globally.

At our fall musical, *Peter Pan, Jr.*, students raised almost \$500 for Give Back Hope International, an organization that sponsors special ministries such as the Hope Restoration Youth Home in Liberia, Linungwi Trust Orphan-

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My name is Jake Kroesen, and I love acting. It is one of my favorite things here at CPRS. I have been in plays such as *The King and I*, *Cinderella*, *Annie*, *Little Mermaid, Jr.*, *More Than Conquerors*, *Treasures from the Heart*, *Music Machine*, and *Honor Bound*. And now I am Peter Pan!

Peter Pan has always been one of my favorite Disney characters and one of my favorite Disney movies—and Captain Hook has always been one of my favorite pirates as well. I've always seen myself as Pan, trying not to grow up and never listening to adults. (You can ask my mom about that one.)

I love being in plays for many reasons. One, I get to step into another person's shoes. Last year, I got to be Scuttle from *The Little Mermaid*. When I tried out, I had no intention of being Scuttle. In fact, I hated the bird so much, but when the practices came along, I began to love the character more and more.

Another reason I love being in the play is because I get to step out of my comfort zone, which is one of the most exciting things to do. Stepping out of your comfort zone cannot only be exciting, but it can also build character because it can give you some new thoughts about yourself. For example, if you're a very serious person but in a play you are a very humorous person like Scuttle, you get to build character.

The musicals have also helped with my singing. I used to be a not-so-great singer, but since I started participating in musicals, I have become a lot better at singing. I also love them because of the practices, which can be one of the greatest things in life. They can turn a bad day into a great day! There have been many days where I have gone into play practice having a horrible day and after practice my day is amazing. Overall, I love doing the plays, and if you haven't been in one yet, then try it out. You will have a great time!



Jake Kroesen
8th Grade

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age in Malawi, and other similar projects across Africa and Southeast Asia. Zion's Ambassadors for Christ, the CPRS service club, has collected items to donate to *Operation Christmas Child*, a program sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. The ZAC club is stuffing shoeboxes full of gifts to be delivered to children of underprivileged families, some domestic and some international.

Also in the coming

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months, the ZAC club will be performing acts of service in the local community such as leaf rakes and food drives. The club has scheduled a trip to visit the saints in Springfield, MO, early next semester to offer Sunday morning ministry, visit the homes of church members, and participate in service projects that would benefit the branch or their local community.

Over the years, several alumni or their parents have reported back to me personally that their spirit of voluntarism in adulthood is the direct result of their experience at CPRS. For those who are willing, the school has become less of a chance to hide from the world and more of an opportunity to engage the world through a compassionate Christian witness. My hope is that these patterns of outreach will strengthen the programs already available in our church to reach out into the world on behalf of Christ.

John Larson
School Administrator



**CHRISTMAS
CONCERTS**

SECONDARY CONCERT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10

ELEMENTARY CONCERT
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 PM
CPRS AUDITORIUM

"...live in thanksgiving daily..."
Alma 16:238

Our First Robotics Team

Our robot team, #9966 *This Side Up*, is part of the FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) program, which is a worldwide program sponsored by FIRST. This is the first year that CPRS has had a team, and we meet every Tuesday and Thursday after school. On September 12th, we went to the game reveal, where we found out what our robot will have to do in the competition. This year, we have to make a robot that will climb a “mountain,” pick up blocks and put them in a bucket, and hang from a bar, among other challenges.

This fall, on October 31st, we went to “Throw Down in Cow Town” for the FRC program (FIRST Robot Competition). “Throw Down in Cow Town” is a day where the FRC teams get together and play last year’s game. FRC is basically a bigger, more expen-

sive version of FTC. On December 5th, we are helping to run an FLL (FIRST Lego League) competition. The people running the competition have asked our team to come and not only help out, but also to bring our robot to demonstrate the game.

Participating in these events gives us a chance to practice on a real field before the regional qualifying competition, which is scheduled for January 30th, 2016. If we place well enough, we will go to the super regional competition. After that, we will have the chance to compete in a few other challenges to see if we qualify to continue to advance. Then, if we make it, we can go to the world competition in St. Louis.

Sarah Eliason, 11th grade
Hannah Bezona, 10th grade



My Experience as the Parent of a CPRS Senior

Let me first start by saying that having a senior, no matter what school they attend, is much like raising a thoroughbred horse. Some days you can enjoy a calm leisurely ride and other days there is no end to the bucking. On those days you know you are in for a rough ride. I chose to describe them as thoroughbreds, because of their great value and potential. We know the race of life is not going to be easy, but we as parents try to instill in them the desire, determination and strength to endure and to reach the finish line, whatever that may look like for each individual.

As parents, we hope that by their senior year our student’s emphasis in life begins to mature into pursuing and valuing relationships. We hope that sharing trust and honesty, integrity and compassion with friends and family holds more value than the material wealth of this world. The senior year is the time when all the lessons and experiences from kindergarten to 12th grade mesh together to form this new adult ready to enter the world as a contributor to our community and society. Seniors are full of fresh, new innovative ideas of what they will do with their lives and how they will accomplish their hearts’ desires.

The opportunity offered to Zach, as well as each senior at CPRS, has been invaluable. It would be easy to take for granted the blessing they have been granted to be a student not only at a Christian school, but one that holds and professes the Fullness of the Gospel. I have very much appreciated the empha-

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sis that CPRS puts on each student's relationship with God in taking time for prayer and chapel on a regular basis. As do many parents, I hold on to the hope and promise in the scriptures that is found in Proverbs 22:6, that if we "Train up a child in the way he should go; when he is old, he will not depart from it." CPRS has been a vital part of that training and nurturing for Zach as well as for our daughters.

Through the years, we as a family have seen CPRS morph into the school that it is today. Many of the teachers and faculty have grown with our children, seeing them mature and blossom hopefully into responsible, accountable young people. There are not many schools that are able to provide such rich nurturing experiences in

such a familiar and caring environment.

As the world around us continues to get darker, where good morals are no longer taught or encouraged, it has been a blessing for our children, to be surrounded daily by reminders of what is right and true and what God expects from His people.

As the old saying goes, "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." Many of our young people do not understand the sweetness of the water that CPRS has offered them through their years of schooling. It is my prayer that as our seniors graduate and enter the world that they would remember to return to that source of living water that they have been taught, even Christ Jesus and His Living Word.

My experience as a parent through the years of my son's schooling and now as the parent of a senior, has been full of hills and valleys, joys and disappointments but always with the vision, hope and knowledge that God loves my son even more than I do and he has a very special plan for him. My last thoroughbred has reached his senior year and very soon, whether he is ready or not, will be out experiencing a whole new world, one that is not as friendly or forgiving or moral or upright as his experience at CPRS. May the God-given gifts and talents and the sweet teachings of God's Word aid our seniors in holding fast, and may they be found faithful in these the last days.

Ron and Brenda VanFleet