



Message from the Headmaster

May 12, 2010

Dear Families and Friends of Prince of Peace Christian School,

As we enter the middle of May, you might be finding yourself saying, "Wow, I can't believe it is almost over" or "Whew, I am ready for summer." Honestly, I find myself thinking and saying both. For some of us, May can be a difficult month of the year. Many of us are busy, over-scheduled, and with the sun being out until 9:00 p.m., find bedtime for the younger ones being pushed back a few minutes at a time. Our children look forward to the change of pace that summer brings. Thoughts about Algebra and History are interrupted with dreams of vacation and swimming. The completion of this school year can also mean the beginning of a transition. For some students such as our High School Graduates, our 8th graders and our younger children, this means adjusting to change. For example, moving from the ELC to the "big school" at the conclusion of the year brings both excitement and anxiety in moving to the "next level". As we finish the year together, I would encourage us to pray daily with and for our children, for those who teach, coach and encourage our children, and for each other. We do so in confidence knowing that God has a plan for each of us - for today and tomorrow.

Upcoming Events

As I just wrote about being too busy and over-scheduled, I want to bring a few dates and times to your attention. The first being a **Celebration and Dedication for the "Field of Dreams"** to be held on May 18, at 9:30 a.m. Please consider coming out and celebrating with us. A **closing Middle School chapel and recognition of the 8th graders** will be held on May 27, at 11:30 a.m., in the Fine Arts Center. **Closing chapel for Kindergarten-5th grade** is scheduled for May 28, at 10:30 a.m., with dismissal immediately following chapel. **High School Graduation** is Friday, May 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please consider yourself invited to attend and participate as we celebrate our children and the completion of another school year! For children ages three through fifth grade, I would encourage you to attend **Vacation Bible School**, June 14 - 18. Many of our POPCS children will be there. Our middle and high school students can still get together for fellowship and study over the summer by attending **JAM** or **ROCK** which are both part of the youth ministry program of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Registration information for VBS and upcoming youth schedules can be found at www.princeofpeace.org. If you are looking for activities for your children or need help with childcare, be sure and check out Summer in the Zone at www.popcs.org. There are lots of great camps offering fun for your children and free time for you.

The Class of 2010

I had the great privilege of visiting with each member of the Class of 2010 one-on-one over the last week. What an outstanding group of young men and women! The Class of 2010 is the 6th group to graduate from our high school. This graduating class of 40 students received over \$3 million in academic and athletic scholarships. The class includes both National Merit and Commended Scholars. All will be attending their first or second choice college or university. Look for a complete profile of the class of 2010, including the college each student will attend, as part of the School Profile sent out during the summer.

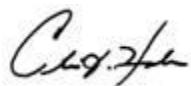
Enrollment Update

Like many Christian schools locally and across the country, we are going through a growth adjustment period. The original enrollment projections made in October 2009 for the 2010-11 school year assumed no increase in enrollment. Our Leadership Team and School Board revised those projections in early March 2010, to reflect a 6% decrease in our student enrollment projections for next year, from 930 to 865. The drop in enrollment is across all areas of the school. As the school is funded through tuition,

the change in enrollment required a change in our staffing plan. Decisions to produce a balanced budget included: several revisions of budget requests seeking to incorporate the needs of the faculty and staff, a reduction in preschool classes, not offering K-Prep due to limited enrollment (program will be reinstated in the future), re-opening a 4th section of Kindergarten (Mrs. Knotts will teach this new section), having 2 sections of first grade, and reopening the 3rd section of fourth grade (Mrs. Peterson). Some positions have been combined like Mrs. Warneke's position. She will be teaching both Eagle's Nest and Reading Recovery. Other positions have been reduced or eliminated. The Human Resource policies of our school do not allow me to share individual circumstances with you. The decisions were very difficult to make, but were required to fulfill our mission of providing a Christ-Centered exemplary education for each child, and for us to remain a viable school of choice in the future. I have been asked if the addition of the Fine Arts Center and athletic field development is contributing to the budget challenges. The answer is both yes and no. Yes, because while we raised nearly half of the required capital for the Fine Arts Center through generous donations, we have incorporated the remaining costs of both the Fine Arts Center and Field of Dreams into the operational and development budgets. And conversely no, as both facilities will contribute to retaining current students and attracting new students and families to Prince of Peace.

As I conclude, whether you find yourself saying "wow" or "whew", please know how incredibly humbled and blessed we are to serve your children and family. I hope as you are able to reflect on the year, you too can say it has been a great experience and look forward to returning in the fall. Sometimes it can get a little too quiet, maybe a little lonely around here as the children and teachers take off for the summer. Please know that I am in the office most days and would welcome an opportunity to hear about your year, as well as address any questions or concerns you may have. Please feel free to call me directly at 972-447-0532, ext 457.

Blessings upon your summer and prayers that God would continue to bless our mutual efforts.



Chris J. Hahn
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Prince of Peace Christian School
www.popcs.org

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