



# HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

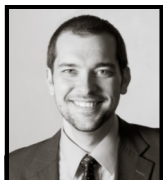
## Transforming Hearts and Minds



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### A TEACHER'S HEART FOR THE CITY



Kevin Deane,  
Principal

Hello, Friends and Family of HPCA. As many of you know, HPCA has some amazing teachers. One is Molly Baker, currently in her second year as our second grade teacher. Molly recently spoke about how God led her heart to teach in Philadelphia. Enjoy reading an excerpt from her speech below:

If you had asked me in high school where I saw myself living after college, I certainly would not have said Philadelphia. Actually, I distinctly recall visiting my sister in Philadelphia and saying to my family, **"I could never live here."** The city was loud and busy and I felt out of place. The neighborhoods were not what I was used to. The people were not like me. Buildings were broken down, houses were boarded up, trash cluttered the sidewalks, and sirens rang through the night. **NOTHING appealed to me about the city.**

But how quickly things change! Two summers later, I found myself in Philadelphia, working at a Christian camp. During that time, God softened my heart and enabled me to see the **true beauty of the city**. I was forced to wrestle with the reality that brokenness was not just in the abandoned houses or on the drug corners but that it was in me. I am in daily need of restoration and Christ's grace. I cried over the injustice that I saw and called out to God, "Where is your heart for this city?" I heard God say, "Molly, it is in you. I have placed my heart for this city in you. Be faithful."

As graduation approached, I believed that God was calling me back to Philadelphia. I heard how God was working at HPCA and was amazed that a school existed that provided affordable, Christian education to kids in the neighborhood, regardless of their spiritual upbringing. I knew that that is where I wanted to be. I wanted to be at a school that incarnated Christ in the city.



As I think of the last year and a half at HPCA, I am humbled and amazed. I will be honest that despite working with children for years and having a great education in the teaching profession, nothing could have prepared me for this. There are many factors that impact my students' ability to learn and that cause some of them to act out in the classroom. Some of my students have endured more suffering in their 7 short years of life than I have ever come close to experiencing. *(continued on back)*

### WAYS TO HELP

- Contribute toward this year's fundraising goal of \$290,000
- Consider including HPCA in your estate planning
- Be a special runner in the Race for Education!
- Send us your Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, and used ink cartridges

### Upcoming Events...

- Career Day—February 20th
- Easter Program—March 22nd
- Race for Education—April 26th

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

- Thanks to your support, with contributions received and pledges, we will have met our fundraising goal of \$63,000 for the scholarship fund this year!
- Please consider making a contribution to our general operating fund. The amount still needed to reach our goal is \$140,000 by August 31st, 2013. You may also donate online at [hpcaphilly.org](http://hpcaphilly.org). Thank you!

**Mission Statement:** Hunting Park Christian Academy's mission is to provide an affordable, quality, Christian education that celebrates a diverse community and leads children to know and serve the Lord.

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## A TEACHER'S HEART FOR THE CITY

(continued from front)

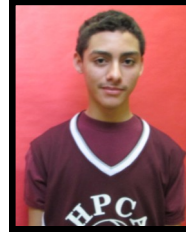
Living in the city, I hear people say things like, “*The reality is*, these kids don’t have a chance.” “*The reality is*, selling drugs is the only way out.” “*The reality is*, it is impossible to break the cycle.” The definition of **reality is the state of being actual, true, or fact**. Although those statements are all grim possibilities, they are certainly not facts. I do not know what the future holds for each of my precious students. However, there is one thing that I know without a shadow of a doubt to be completely true- that our God is great. So, I hold onto the promises found in Scripture because I can say with confidence that they are *actual, true, and factual*.

In John 1:46, people said, “What good could come from Nazareth?” And, in God’s redemptive work, we know that Nazareth is where Christ himself came from. The world says, “What good could come from Philadelphia?” I can testify that I know of 200 great things that will come from this city. I pray that each student in our school will grow up to follow Christ in radical ways- using their talents and gifts to serve others.

I can truly say it is a privilege to be a part of the HPCA community. It is such a joy to be a part of a school that is committed to holistically seeking academic, emotional, and spiritual growth in each student. Through God’s great grace and power, HPCA develops world-changers. Teaching at HPCA has allowed me to see more of Jesus, and there is no place I would rather be.

## Sports Corner

This year, our middle school students had the opportunity to join HPCA’s new basketball and soccer teams. We are thankful for the use of the gymnasium at Esperanza Health Center, which was the home court for HPCA. Our students competed with other Christian schools. Here are two featured eighth-grade players:



Being on the team allowed Justin to make friends in other grades. He has realized that a good team consists of players who use team work and help each other. He has learned a lot about himself and he now knows that if you try at something, you can accomplish anything.



One of Krystal’s favorite things has been getting to visit other Christian schools in Philadelphia because she never knew there were so many other schools. She is excited to have something constructive to do after school instead of just being home.



## INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

HPCA held its annual International Night on February 12th. During the past month, students have been studying different European countries, including various aspects of the culture such as food, clothing, and religion. During the day, students were able to tour other classrooms and learn about each country. The purpose of this event is to expose our students to countries they may not otherwise study and to learn more about the diverse people God created.



Reina (pictured left), a kindergarten student, learned about the Netherlands. During the month, her class learned how to say “hello”, “goodbye”, and “thank you” in Dutch. The kindergarten class also studied different religions that are followed in the Netherlands. Reina said, “**The kindergarten class is praying for the Netherlands so they could believe in Jesus.**”



**Pre-Kindergarten students in Greek Togas**



**5th grade students displaying facts about France**



**4th grade teaching kindergarten about Switzerland**



**6th grade student presenting her diorama of Austria**