

HP HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

CA

FEBRUARY
2014

2013-2014
VOLUME 9
ISSUE 2



Transforming Hearts and Minds



by Kevin Deane,
Principal

Over the past month, I have had the pleasure of speaking at various churches during “Missions Month” services. These events have given me a chance to reflect upon the call that Jesus has on our lives and our school.

There is an educational injustice in Philadelphia. Yet, it is important that we address this truth and not ignore the problem. We must not be fearful that this problem is too big to be addressed. In the middle of these educational realities, **there is God with His promises.**

The Plight

So what exactly is the situation of the educationally poor children in Philadelphia? In 2005, the National Assessment of Educational Progress found that:

- Low-income 4th-graders are **three grade-levels behind** their wealthier peers from the same community
- **50%** of students from low-income communities *WHO GRADUATE* high school (and many do not) will perform, on average, at an 8th-grade level

There are more numbers and more stories. We must not overlook that behind these numbers are actual children who need something more. Programs have been put in place (educational reform, school takeovers, etc.) with some progress, and some regression.

The Call

Proverbs 22:6 – *Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.*

Scripture is packed with commands for God’s people to care for the poor, for those who do not have what they need (not just financially). Therefore, if children are educationally poor, there has to be a response from God’s people.

The Hope

So what do we do? **We rely on the Hope, on Jesus. And we do something.**

Proverbs 31:8-9 – *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

It is clearly the call of the Lord for us to speak for those who cannot, to stand for them, and connect them to what is needed. Anything else (living in ignorance, fear, or apathy) is clearly, biblically, unacceptable. God is at work here in the city and in Hunting Park. He is at work establishing His Kingdom here within his people and within this community.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Without you all, this would not be possible.

Upcoming Events...

Career Day

Wed., February 19th

Easter Program

Friday, April 4th, 7:00 pm

Race for Education

Wed., April 30th

Theme Week

May 5th—May 9th

WAYS TO HELP

- Contribute toward this year’s fundraising goal of \$319,000
- *Business Owners:* Donate to our scholarship fund through OSTC (Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit)
- Join our prayer team
- 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
- Volunteer at HPCA (tutor, building work, teach a special lesson, lead a chapel)
- Help with Theme Week (see above)

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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Sports Corner

This fall, our soccer team had an excellent second season. The thirteen middle-school students grew closer throughout the season and greatly improved their teamwork. Our team competed against seven other Christian schools in Philadelphia. The team made it to the play-offs and finished fourth in the league.

One player, Amaiah, an eighth-grade student, grew tremendously throughout the season. She was encouraged by her middle school teachers to participate in soccer this year. She was shy and nervous and not sure she would like soccer since she had never played a sport before, but decided to give it a try anyway. As the season progressed, she learned she really liked being on the team. She gained more confidence and had a lot of fun. She learned to work on a team and is glad she decided to play.

In February, we began our basketball season. We are excited to see how our athletes will continue to grow.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

My name is Kayla Gonzales and I am an alumna of Hunting Park Christian Academy. I was blessed to be a student at HPCA from first through eighth grade and graduated in June of 2010 (*pictured right, with teacher, Mrs. Nesbitt*). This upcoming June, I will be graduating from Academy at Palumbo High School, a public magnet school.



My eight years at HPCA were some of the best years of my life. I do not think that I would have ever gotten the love, support, and Christian foundation that I received there at any other school. The staff were and are amazing, big-hearted people who do everything in their power to push every student to be successful in their education and in their spiritual lives. **I am very grateful for my time at such a wonderful school and sincerely believe that if it weren't for HPCA, I would not have been as strong in my faith and as strongly motivated in high school as I have been for the past few years.**

Being a senior in high school can be very stressful because students are in the process of choosing a college and what career path they want to take. Fortunately, I was taught by my mother, church family, and HPCA that if I just trust in God, He will light the correct path and that I don't have to worry about anything because He is in control. I currently have a 4.0 grade point average, I am Secretary of the National Honor Society, and have been accepted into seven different four-year universities in Pennsylvania. **This upcoming fall, I will be attending Eastern University, a Christian university near Philadelphia.** Although going to a private, Christian university is very expensive, I am trusting that God will provide a way financially for me to attend my dream school. I am so blessed to have the opportunity to further my education in a Christian environment.



Outside of school, I am part of a wonderful church family at the First Christian Missionary Church. I have attended my entire life and have been very involved in different ministries in the church, including the dance team (*pictured left*), teaching in the children's Sunday school, helping with the youth ministry, and more. Right now, I am not positive of what career I want to have. However there is a possibility that

I will be majoring in Psychology and minoring in Biblical Studies. **My goal is to simply help others who are struggling in life and to offer them the hope that they can only find through Christ when they feel like there is no way out of their situations.**

I thank God for allowing me to attend HPCA, and in my heart I will always be a part of the HPCA family.

"SPECIAL RUNNER" FUN FACTS

Our 9th Annual Race for Education is April 30th. Special Runners are non-student supporters who help raise funds for HPCA by walking/jogging.

- Since our first Race for Education in 2006, Special Runners have raised a total of \$30,610!
- In 2011, we awarded our first "Jr. Special Runner" trophy to Jakob, a third-grade student from another school, who ran 24 laps, more than any HPCA student!
- Ross Watson, our kindergarten aid, walked 66 laps in one day!

For more information on being a Special Runner this year, please contact Jen Deane at 215-324-9180 or jen@hpcaphilly.org.