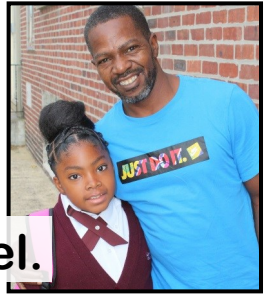




HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MARCH
2020

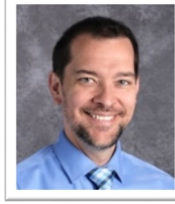


RISE: Respond. Ignite. Serve. Excel.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. -Ephesians 2:21-22

Everything comes down to relationships. Relationships are of utmost importance at HPCA. Here are some “small” details we don’t usually get to highlight in newsletters.

- Every day at HPCA, we greet each student with a “Good morning!” and a handshake as they enter the building. Some have developed secret handshakes (and, no, I will not share them with you).
- Ms. Wire, our 1st-grade teacher, stays after school every day with a few students (for years - the same students), sometimes tutoring, sometimes listening to what’s going on in their lives.
- Each year, Claire Johnson, a steadfast volunteer of over a decade, invites the students she works with to come to her home for an end-of-the-year party.
- Grant Hofman, HPCA’s chaplain and middle-school Bible teacher, ends each class by asking the students two questions: “Do you know that you are loved?” (Yes), and “By whom?” (Jesus).
- Teachers routinely give up their lunch breaks to meet with students, as a reward or for extra tutoring or a chance to make up some work.
- At HPCA, we employ Mr. Ross, the kindest, most positive, loving person on the face of the Earth (I’m not kidding). He knows every student’s birthday (I’m not kidding) and makes everyone - student, parent, or staff - truly feel like they are the absolute best.



*by Kevin Deane,
Principal*

There are dozens of other examples that I could share. **What will students remember most about their time at HPCA? These relationships.** That’s why so many students keep coming back after they graduate. They are loved, and they know it.

We value relationships because we belong to a God who values relationships. We are made for them. Just look at Ephesians 2, from where our monthly memory verse above is taken. The chapter is a clear and beautiful example of the Lord’s desire for relationship and the lengths to which He is willing to go for it. He values relationship so much that He sacrificed His life to break down walls of separation. Look at the difference. “By birth,” we are foreigners, excluded from citizenship, separate from Christ, without hope, and far away. But, “by blood,” Jesus brings us near, destroys the “dividing wall of hostility,” makes two groups into one new humanity, gives us access to the Father, and makes us members of the same household and fellow citizens.

God has borne the burden in order to bring us in, and we have received the magnificent benefits of true relationship. As verses 21-22 say, **we get to be together within the walls of God’s holy temple, and we are being built together to become the dwelling in which God lives.** What a picture of the fullness of relationship. All of us together, God around us, and God dwelling within us.

HPCA is what it is because of relationships. We love our kids and families, and we are thankful for your relationships. There are so many ways you all have gotten involved. Check out the back of this newsletter for two new ways to get involved – **our before- and after-school program, and the SPE tax credit program.** As always, we invite you to be a part of what God is doing here. Stop by if you are able. We would love to have you.

WAYS TO HELP

- Contribute toward this year’s fundraising goal of \$547,000!
- **Pay Taxes in PA?** Donate to our scholarship fund and receive a **90% tax credit!**
- Join our email prayer team.
- Organize a donation drive for Good Stuff Thrift Store.
- Help us reach our Race for Education goal by being a **Special Runner!**
- Be a Race for Education volunteer! We could use help with mailer writing (March 12th—March 19th) or on Race Day (April 29th).

Contact Jen Deane, Director of Development, at 215-312-9180 or jen@hpcaphilly.org if you would like more information about these ways to help.

Upcoming Events...

Easter Program
Thursday, April 2nd
7:00 pm

Race for Education
Wednesday, April 29th

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.

4400 N. 6th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19140 • 267-331-8002 • www.hpcaphilly.org • jen@hpcaphilly.org

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL



In January, HPCA began our own before- and after-school program! The program that had previously served our students had to close in December, unfortunately. Knowing that many of our families rely on these extended hours because of their work schedules, HPCA stepped in to create our own program to serve our students.

We currently have 15 students in our before-school program. Students typically do fun theme days, like "Thankful Thursday," where students write thank you notes to different students or staff members, or "Tournament Tuesday," which has featured some fierce Connect 4 battles!

The after-school program currently serves 40 students. A typical day involves a snack, homework help, independent reading, and free play. When HPCA has half days, the after-school program gets to do special activities like painting on canvases, creating cake pops and Valentine's Day cards for supporters, and creating stained glass paintings. Also, our middle-school students had a field trip to Eastern State Penitentiary.

We are so thankful for the support we have received to help provide this quality program for our students! If you would like more information about becoming involved in this program, either as an employee, volunteer, or supporter, please contact us at info@hpcaphilly.org.

Why I Gave My Tax Dollars to HPCA

by Dave Minno, HPCA Board Vice-President



When my wife, Susie, and I learned that we could use the income tax money we pay to the Commonwealth of PA to support the work of HPCA, our ears perked up and we listened. We found out that in 2014 through the Tax Reform Act, Pennsylvania allows the prepayment of taxes through a "special purpose entity" for the purpose of providing quality education in private schools. This applies to anyone who has an income tax liability with the State of over \$3,500.

The process was simple. We sent a one-page joinder form with our pledged amount to Central Pennsylvania Scholarship Fund, the "special purpose entity" that HPCA uses. In October, we sent them a check in the amount of our PA taxes. In the beginning of the following year, we receive a voucher for 90% of what we sent in. This voucher is filed as a credit with our tax return to the State. 100% of the contribution goes to HPCA, with no administrative fee subtracted.

If you love the mission and work of HPCA to provide a quality, Christian education to children at risk, I would encourage you to take advantage of this simple, wonderful program. I plan to do it again next year!

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

On February 13th, HPCA held its annual International Night. The theme this year was "Making a Difference," and students studied people in different countries who have done amazing things. During the night, families were able to tour the classrooms and hear about the different people their children had learned about. It was a fantastic night. We are thankful that our students had this opportunity to explore the achievements and lives of fascinating people that God created!

