



JUNE
2020

HUNTING PARK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



RISE: Respond. Ignite. Serve. Excel.



by Kevin Deane,
Principal

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. - Revelation 21:23

What. A. Year. We are living through a wildly unique time in history. At best, we have been merely inconvenienced. At worst, we have mourned. Most of us have found ourselves at various spots on this spectrum. **I'm wondering - how have you been affected?** Have you experienced moments in the darkness? Have you prayed for strength? Or hopefulness? Have you sought the Lord for guidance and for His light? I know I have.

Near the beginning of the shutdown, I read a line in Eric McLaughlin's honest and hopeful book, Promises in the Dark, which has influenced the way I am perceiving this time. When speaking about the darkness that sometimes seems overwhelming in our broken world, McLaughlin writes, **"Goodness peeks through here and there, now and then. New creation glimmers like a pinprick of light in a black curtain. The smallest pinprick can betray the broadest barrier."** God's new creation, and His incomprehensible love for us, is unstoppable. And, even if we find ourselves only getting glimpses of light through the curtain, it is enough to remember His promises. Now, to help us, together, "grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ," here are a few pinpricks of light.

A supporting church prayed for specific requests that HPCA families shared on a recent school survey. Church members also sent them notes of encouragement, and our parents felt very blessed by this act of kindness. Here are some responses:

"Truly we are family, and when one member hurts we all hurt, and when one member rejoices we all rejoice. So please tell the church members that I'm very grateful for their prayers, especially in the area of patience and joy. And I'm thankful for our teacher and all of the HPCA family! You are wonderful!"

"This has truly been a blessing to receive this today. This is very encouraging. May God continue to bless you to bless others. It was becoming a difficult week for me. So thank you very much for blessing me today. This is beautiful!"

Alumni are reaching out to bless HPCA with encouraging remembrances and kind words. One wrote, "I come back to HPCA often to visit, but it's really about going back to where my spiritual journey first started. I can't seem to find words that can properly express the depth of gratitude I have for my family at HPCA for consistently being there and choosing to use honey as opposed to vinegar. Thank you."

From a parent after listening in on his child's Zoom class meeting: "The teacher covered fact and opinion and the difference between chemical and physical change. But hearing the students' voices and interactions was even more remarkable. They were so excited to hear from one another and talk about their lives (one student had just gotten a new cat, and the class went wild!). The kids need this social interaction, and I am so happy that the teachers of HPCA are helping to make those connections."

We are blessed by the love of God, the promise that He is making all things new, and the community of which we are privileged to be a part. That's a lot of light.



Due to the uncertainty of state regulations, we do not have any official work days scheduled for August. However, if you would like to volunteer as an individual or small group, we have many jobs including painting, general cleaning, and small maintenance jobs that can be done throughout the summer.

Please contact Jen Deane at jen@hpcaphilly.org if you would like to arrange a time to help.

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**. Ask us for more information!
- Join our e-mail prayer team.
- Organize a donation drive for back-to-school supplies or donate gift cards to teachers. Contact us to get the current list of supplies needed.

Contact Jen Deane, Director of Development, at 215-324-9180 or jen@hpcaphilly.org if you would like more information on these ways to help.

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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Alumna Spotlight: Jaslyn Sierra, Class of 2009

Congratulations to Jaslyn Sierra, who recently received a Master of Education degree with Autism Spectrum Disorders Endorsement from LaSalle University. She is currently working as a third-grade special education teacher at Pan American Academy Charter School. Jaslyn is a mom of two boys, ages 3 years and 3 months! She and her husband, Ralphy, are members of City Reach Philly Church, where they serve as youth pastors. We reached out and asked her to reflect on her time at HPCA and the impact it had on her life.

"The atmosphere at HPCA was always so positive that I grew up to have a positive mindset. During the toughest moments of my life, I always tend to have this peace and positivity within me. I believe my character and the way I carry myself in such a positive way is due to being surrounded by that atmosphere for the 8 years I attended HPCA."

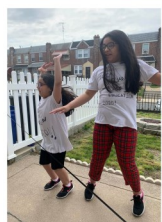
"HPCA prepared me for the workload that would follow once I graduated! I grew a love for learning, and every time I thought I was finished with school, I found myself registering for another semester, until I reached graduate school."

"HPCA planted a seed in me for a love for Christ. I didn't know it then, but I do now. When I was 17, I gave my heart to the Lord and got baptized. I always believed in God and went to church, but I put my life in His hands when I saw Him move in my life."

We are so thankful to see God at work in the lives of our alumni!



VIRTUAL RACE FOR EDUCATION



On April 29th, HPCA held our first-ever Virtual Race for Education! The event was livestreamed throughout the morning. Mr. Deane hosted many guests, who all shared why HPCA was such a special place to them.

Students, families, staff, and supporters were active in many unique ways, including Jazzercise, walking up and down flights of stairs, jumping on a trampoline, riding bikes, swinging on the monkey bars, and running in circles in their backyard!

Everyone also got creative designing their own Virtual Race for Education shirts. They all looked terrific!

While we did not envision that our 15th Race for Education would look like this, we are so thankful for the support we received. **The total amount of contributions (including pledges) is \$30,500!** We appreciate each person who sacrificed to give to HPCA this year.

All the money raised will go directly to our scholarship fund, helping keep HPCA affordable. This is especially important this year, as many families are struggling financially, due to the effects of the shutdown.

Check out more pictures and videos at hpcaphilly.org!