



SOAR!

GRADUATION 2010

Who Dares, Wins

May 29, 2010 marked the 26th annual commencement exercises at Darren Patterson Christian Academy. The 2 p.m. ceremony was held in the gymnasium.

Graduating this year were Aaron Green, Shawn Martin, Nathan Ritschard, Nathan Sturgis, Jon Tingle, and Juan Velasquez. A continuation celebration for eighth graders was also held for Sienna Deschambeault, Dylon Lusin, Antonio Navarrette and Sarah Pascarelli.

Mrs. Pat Tritz and Pastor Zach Bearss were the class speakers for the eighth graders and the high school graduates, respectively. The class speaker was Nathan Ritschard, Valedictorian. A slide show for each 2010 graduate, complete with music and a spoken blessing from parents, was one of the highlights of the ceremony. Special music was provided by graduating senior, Shawn Martin. Pastor Carey Green concluded the ceremony with a commissioning prayer and a blessing.

A reception for graduates and those celebrating their continuation was held afterwards in the DPCA cafetorium.

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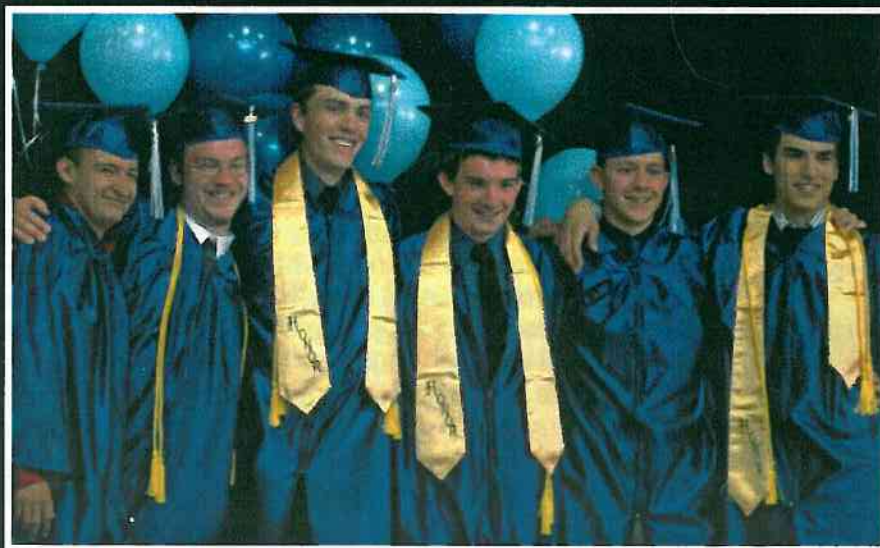
HONOR ROLL

MOTTO: QUI AUDIT, VINCIT.
(WHO DARES, WINS)

COLORS: ROYAL BLUE AND
BLACK

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 5:3-5

NOT ONLY SO, BUT WE ALSO REJOICE IN OUR SUFFERINGS, BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT SUFFERING PRODUCES PERSEVERANCE; PERSEVERANCE, CHARACTER; AND CHARACTER, HOPE. AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US, BECAUSE GOD HAS Poured OUT HIS LOVE INTO OUR HEARTS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHOM HE HAS GIVEN US."



▲ Juan, Nathan S., Jon, Nathan R., Aaron, and Shawn
Band of Brothers

THE THIRD DIMENSION: FELLOWSHIP by Erik Ritschard

Why should we have our children enrolled in Christian schools? In this series of articles, we've been exploring some of the blessings that children receive from Christian schooling, and in this third article we'll explore the concept of fellowship. The dictionary defines fellowship as company or companionship¹, while the Scripture speaks of the idea of fellowship in over 160 verses found in at least 28 of the Bible's 66 books². Fellowship is that sweetness of having companions in life, of knowing others who share one's beliefs, vision, goals, and interests. Fellowship can be shallow, such as the common interest shared by those who like chocolate ice-cream, or it can be profoundly deep, such as the companionship known by those who have suffered and worked together in a common cause. Biblical fellowship specifically includes the idea that the common ground of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ is the center around which our relationships with others revolves. Biblical fellowship, then, is all of these things: company and companionship with others, rooted in Christ, and having the potential for profound influence and support in our lives as in Christ we share common beliefs, goals, vision, interests, sufferings, and joy.

In the school in which I grew up, true fellowship, Christian or not, was hard to come by. To be sure, I had friends, and my friends had friends. As we grew up together, though, life happened. Some of my friends made decisions about their schoolwork that I didn't agree with, or about how to behave with girls, or what to do with drugs, or what to live for, or what to dream about, or what would be most important to them. In fact, all children and teens make these decisions as they grow up, and so my friends and I were decidedly normal. Children in Christian schools make these decisions as well, but here's the potential for blessing: in the Christian school there are some common factors that were missing from my school. There is a strong potential for widespread agreement on moral issues. There is potential for agreement about the centrality of God in all things. There is the potential for mutual affirmation of life's priorities viewed from a biblical perspective. There is great potential for the development of affirming, supportive, graceful relationships that offer much encouragement for walking the path of Christian discipleship.

I say "potential" because to be bluntly honest, of the three dimensions of blessing we have explored thus far, this one – true fellowship – is the most demanding and the most difficult to achieve. It is relatively easy to teach coursework from a biblical perspective. It is also relatively easy to proclaim and teach an unambiguous moral standard. But to achieve true fellowship in a school community is a real challenge. Principles of fellowship can be discussed, but the fellowship itself only actually happens as teachers and students invest themselves in real relationships with real people. The blessing of a Christian school environment in this regard is threefold: 1) there can be agreement on what leads to genuine biblical fellowship, 2) there can be teaching of the principles of Christian fellowship, and 3) there can be encouragement and accountability for the development of attitudes and behaviors that are likely to foster genuine fellowship.

This year at DPCA, especially in the upper grades, we wrestled with a concept called "place-sharing" – the act of unconditionally walking with someone through life with no agenda but to love them. The more we wrestled with the idea, the more we could begin to see how challenging it was. Our students wrestled as well as we talked about this concept in chapels and in small groups. We confronted the fact that we often failed to do this, that we often had other agendas for people around us, that frankly we often just didn't care enough or love enough to enter into someone else's life. As the year wound down, there were mixed reviews: many students testified that we had made some progress, others said not so much. But the blessing of being in a Christian school environment was that we could actively and pointedly work on these things. We could confront ideas that isolate instead of join. We could dialogue about giving each other dignity

¹Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1981

²Nave's Topical Bible, 1974

THE THIRD DIMENSION: FELLOWSHIP continued...

and grace, mercy, and forgiveness. In the process, we proved again that real life with real people is challenging, and that there is no hope of treating people well apart from Christ. We demonstrated that genuine, deep fellowship both takes time and effort to pursue, and is worth the time and effort. We found that it is particularly difficult when the going gets rough – when people disagree with us, or attack us, or walk away. We learned that genuine fellowship does not just happen, but that instead it must be an intentional pursuit. I urge you to read the essays that came out of the Romanian mission trip for some more insight into our students' wrestling with these ideas. And I thank those of you again who support DPCA and the work here. It is not easy or shallow work. The development of genuine Christian faith and fellowship in ourselves and in our students constantly challenges us and stretches us. But again, I'm thankful to be working in a school environment where one of the blessings that children receive is the commitment to keep going, to persevere in the development of Christian fellowship that both teaches students what to look for and what to pursue; and often along the way produces deep, lasting, Christian friendships that will be a source of delight for eternity.

Trek to Id-Ra-Ha-Je

The 7th and 8th graders hit the road in April for DPCA's annual Junior High trip to camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je. They were accompanied by staff members Mrs. Pat Tritz and Mr. Tom Navarrette.

Events like repelling, the high ropes course, the boulder house, archery, and initiative games provided opportunities for fun, but also gave students a chance for personal achievement as well as building group camaraderie.

The camp, whose name stands for I'd Rather Have Jesus, is located in Bailey, Colorado.



TRAVELING WITH THE SPRING PROGRAM

Come and Go With Me

Transportation Songs was the theme of this year's spring program and it was a hit! The kindergartners set the tone for the evening opening with the well-known favorites: *Down by the Station* and *Wheels on the Bus*. From then on, both vocalists and instrumentalists led the audience through a hearty variety of traveling songs ranging from the serious to the fun. Each grade, group, ensemble, and soloist was most impressive.

If your travels took you to a destination other than DPCA's Spring Program on April 22 -- you missed a good one.

Thank you Mr. Barnes and students for a wonderfully entertaining evening!



EAST COAST HIGHLIGHTS

Fifteen students and their chaperones headed to the east coast the end of May on a week long trip featuring sights and events in the Washington, D.C. , New York, and Boston area. The chaperones for the group this year were faculty members Pat Tritz and Tom Navarrette, and parents Mindi Green, Laurinda Jelinek, Maggie Pascarelli, and Brad Pranger.

Mount Vernon, The Smithsonian, the National Monuments, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, The Tear Drop Memorial, and Ground Zero were cited as highlights, along with seeing *The Lion King* on Broadway and unexpectedly seeing the President of Mexico during a tour of Arlington National Cemetery.



DRAMA: *An Enemy of the People* by Josette Deschambeault



"How many times do I have to tell you? The water is poisoned!" So proclaimed Dr. Thomas Stockman (Nathan Ritschard) to a crowd of his fellow townsmen. Set in late Victorian-era Norway, this intellectual and philosophical play by Henrik Ibsen led the audience through a journey of shocking discovery: a struggle between the truth and keeping the peace of a town and how far men will go to keep a "perfect" facade. The play opened on a calm and pleasant scene – a small-town, European

living room that quickly began to fill up with guests. Dr. Stockman, along with his wife, Catherine (Nicole Pranger) are entertaining the local newspaper man and woman – Mr. Hovstad (Shawn Martin), and Ms. Billing (Josette Deschambeault) – and a family friend, Captain Horster (Jon Tingle), when Dr. Stockman receives a devastating letter. The Springs, the healing facility that is the financial foundation of the town of Kirsten Springs, has been found to have poisoned waters. As Dr. Stockman, supported by Catherine, his daughter Petra (Melinda Green), and his sons Ejlif (Kenneth Schell) and Morten (Noah Ritschard) works to spread the news of this disaster, he is first aided by Mr.

Aslaksen (Nick Pascarelli) and the rest of the newspaper staff, until Stockman's brother, Mayor Peter Stockman (Tanner Brassler) steps in and refuses to let the news be spread any further. The newspaper, a major force in the small town of Kirsten Springs, is rocked back and forth until it is strong-armed into siding with the Mayor. The tension of the play culminates in a large town meeting, where the Stockmans, the Mayor, the newspaper staff, Captain Horster, Catherine's father Morten Kiil (Aaron Green), and a large gathering of townspeople (see below) gather to discuss the subject of the water. However, the meeting turns from a proclamation of the horrible news to a riot against the Stockmans, egged on by the Mayor.



The play ends with the Stockmans and their only remaining friend and ally, Captain Horster, in the now-destroyed living room they began in, planning their escape to America. Dr. Stockman decides, however, as the riotous crowd once again descends upon his house, that they will not run, but rather stand alone as the truth against a town that has turned against them.



The cast and crew worked to overcome a few obstacles along the way: illnesses, trips, and long speeches to memorize to name a few – but in the end, it all came

together. Both performances were a success and both performances had an excellent turn out.

The play came together with a lot of hard work and much-appreciated help from not only the cast, but also from a few specific people – Erik and Jani Ritschard, for choosing the play, directing the play, and overseeing every aspect of the play; Shawn Martin, for his excellent costuming and designing the set's props; Heidi Pollock, for managing the backstage and set changes throughout the play; Harvey Brassler, for building the majority of the sets; Zakk Martin and Aaron Andreas, for painting, building and moving the sets; Angela Tingle, for arranging all of the ladies' hair; Ethan Ritschard and Juan Velasquez for running the lights and sound; Marla Pranger, for coordinating the dinner theater and publicizing the play; Elle Jelinek, for pitching in everywhere, specifically with the ladies' costumes; Hannah Tingle, Abbie Tingle, and Nicole Pranger, for assisting with makeup for the cast; and Colorado State University's Theater Department, New Bee's and High Country Fine Arts for allowing us the use of their costumes. A special thanks to Neighborhood Cleaners for their generous donation of dry cleaning for all the costumes and another special thanks to all of the families who donated food for the dinner theater and allowed their furniture, props or clothing to be borrowed for play.

Townspeople were played by: Winter Bardol, Rebecca Pranger, Madeline Green, Riley Shawhan, Sienna Deschambeault, Sarah Pascarelli, Nathan Sturgis, Jessie Johnston, Abbie Tingle, Isaac Bearss, Hannah Tingle, Micah Ritschard, Ben Little, Erin Enck, and Kiernan Martin. Aiding the townspeople in serving the dinner were parents, alumni, past staff, and friends of the academy. To you, a million thanks.



FunD Run!



Students ran, raced, and relayed their way to some fun on Thursday, May 20, in honor of all of the sponsors who participated in DPCA's third annual FunD Run. "It's fun



to run in the hallways," stated one excited youngster. Yes, it's true, FunD Run day is one of the RARE times you won't hear: "No running!" Running from classrooms, down hallways, through the cafeteria, and out the front doors is how each class starts their portion of the FunD Run. From there they either run relays (K-4), race against the clock in scavenger hunts (5th-8th), or sprint around Buena Vista in search of something Bigger or Better (High School).



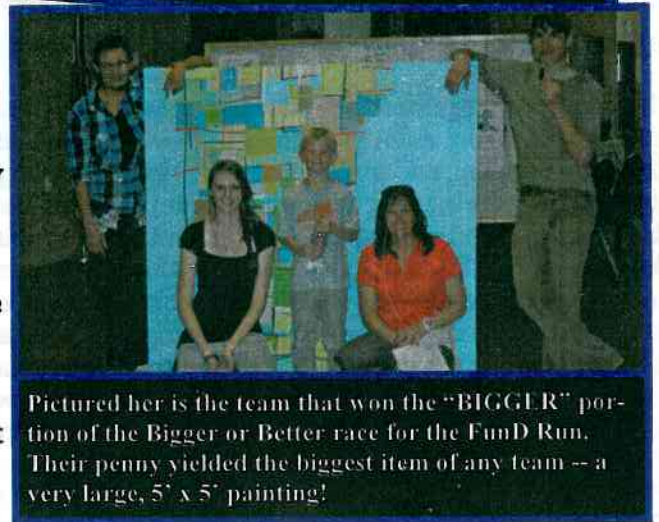
This team won the "BETTER" portion of the Bigger or Better race for the FunD Run. Starting with a penny they raced through town, trading up their penny and

A bulletin board with a list of the FunD Run donors to date was on display for everyone to see, along with an opportunity to participate in a guessing game: how many FunD Run letters were mailed and



how much money do you think we will raise this year? Congratulations to Kate Lundy, who was only off by 9 when she guessed that 400 letters were mailed when actually 391 were mailed.

Tatianna Popovich was closest in guessing the amount of money raised with her guess of \$10,000 -- \$11,225 has been raised so far.



Pictured here is the team that won the "BIGGER" portion of the Bigger or Better race for the FunD Run. Their penny yielded the biggest item of any team -- a very large, 5' x 5' painting!

The Promotions Committee and the Development Office, who sponsored the event, continually seeks ways to raise money each year to help the school end the year fiscally healthy. The FunD Run is proving to be one of the largest fund-raisers in recent years, raising just under \$13,000 the first year, just over \$14,000 last year, and \$11,225 to date this year.

TRACK & FIELD DAY ENJOYS GREAT WEATHER!

Much to the delight of students, staff, and parents, May 27 dawned sunny and warm for DPCA's annual Track & Field Day. "We are always prepared for rain and wind," commented one parent, "but it looks like the weather today is going to be perfect!"

With Mr. Little at the helm, and parent, staff, and upper classmen volunteers helping, the events ran smoothly and efficiently.

As has become tradition, lunch off the grill was available to everyone, compliments of Mrs. T, Mr. Navarrette, and the 7th and 8th grade class.

Congratulations to all the T&F participants, and thanks to everyone who helped make the day a success.



REJOICING IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

The community of DPCA is rejoicing this summer in God's faithfulness and in the generosity of the friends of the Academy. Projections for the early summer anticipated a cash deficit of about \$60,000 by the end of the fiscal year on June 30, but we're very happy to report that we will be finishing out the fiscal year with no deficit at all! We received many generous gifts both large and small from parents and many other friends of the Academy this summer. Our FunD Run raised a little over \$11,000 and the Lord provided for the sale of one of our endowment fund investments that also gave us a boost. All these gifts and help have made up what we were projecting as a deficit and so it is a blessing and delight to be able to report that DPCA is again on track financially as we head into 2010-2011. We anticipate the opportunities that are coming to help equip students for excellence in Christian life and service.

We want to thank you all so very much for your prayers, encouragement, and financial help, and give thanks to our God "who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment." (1 Timothy 6:17)



SIX (EASY!) WAYS TO SUPPORT DPCA!



RECYCLE: Bring in used ink jet cartridges and cell phones. (No laser or toner cartridges please!)



CLIP AND SAVE: Box Tops for Education and Soup Labels.



DONATE ON-LINE: It's quick and easy!

Go to our website at www.dpcaweb.org.

Click the Support DPCA button and then follow the Donating to DPCA link.



BECOME A BOOSTER CLUB PLUS MEMBER:

Information available at our website: www.dpcaweb.org.

Click the Support DPCA button and then follow the Booster Club Plus link;

or contact the Development Office: Phone: 719-395-6046 Ext. 18 Email: development@dpcaweb.org

USE GOODSEARCH AND GOODSHOP WHEN YOU'RE ONLINE:

It costs you NOTHING extra!



Go to www.goodsearch.com. Type *Darren Patterson Christian Academy* in the "WHO DO YOU GOOD SEARCH FOR?" box. Click the VERIFY button. Use the Good Search box to search on-line, or the Good Shop button to buy from over 600 stores.



MAIL A DONATION: Just use the enclosed response card and envelope!

FOURTH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

PRINCIPAL'S

GPA 4.0

Sheridan Harder 3rd
 Tori McManamay 3rd
 Laura Pelino 3rd
 Michele Pelino 4th
 Heather Burdges 5th
 Nathan Van Deel 5th
 Phoebe Powell 6th
 Jase Staudt 6th
 Madeline Green 7th
 Rebecca Pranger 7th
 Sarah Pascarelli 8th
 Micah Ritschard 9th
 Tanner Brassler 11th
 Nicole Pranger 11th
 Nathan Ritschard 12th

TEACHER'S

GPA 3.50-3.99

Maggie Hollenbeck 3rd
 Drew Martin 3rd
 Dean Mason 3rd
 Shelby Storms 3rd
 Grace Mei Parker 4th
 Katelyn Davis 5th
 Sydney McManamay 5th
 Noah Ritschard 5th
 Todd Beebe 6th
 Keely Campbell 6th
 Kate Lundy 6th
 Winter Bardol 7th
 Melinda Green 10th
 Nick Pascarelli 10th
 Josette Deschambeault 11th
 Jon Tingle 12th

HONOR

GPA 3.0-3.49

Anna Bearss 3rd
 Reid Shawhan 3rd
 Marshal Swarny 3rd
 Adam Velasquez 3rd
 Arden Bardol 5th
 Tatianna Popovich 5th
 Joel Parker 7th
 Kenneth Schell 7th
 Sienna Deschambeault 8th
 Dylon Lusin 8th
 Ethan Ritschard 10th
 Aaron Green 12th
 Nathan Sturgis 12th

ALUMNI NEWS

We want to hear from you! Where are you now? What are you doing? Send your news to: Alumni News, DPCA Development Office, PO Box 1243, Buena Vista, CO 81211 or email information to development@dpcaweb.org.