SOAR!
Darren Patterson Christian Academy
518 South San Juan Avenue ~ P.O. Box 1243
Buena Vista, Colorado 81211

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FOURTH QUARTER HONOR ROLL

PRINCIPAL'S HONOR ROLL
GPA 4.0

Noah Ritschard – 3rd
Jase Staudt – 4th
Sallie Tucker – 4th
Madeline Green – 5th
Rebecca Pranger – 5th
Katie Thompson – 5th
Sarah Pascarelli – 6th
Micah Ritschard – 7th
Melinda Green – 8th
Nick Pascarelli – 8th
Nicole Pranger – 9th
Nathan Ritschard – 10th

TEACHER'S HONOR ROLL
GPA 3.50-3.99

Sydney McManamay – 3rd
Nathan Van Deel – 3rd
Todd Beebe – 4th
Keely Campbell – 4th
Tory Storms – 4th
Jhett Trenary – 4th
Jessie Johnston – 5th
Joel Parker – 5th
Jacob Boucher – 7th
Anna Cortese – 8th
Ethan Ritschard – 8th
Tanner Brasser – 9th
Aaron Green – 10th
Shawn Martin – 10th
Nathan Sturgis – 10th
Jon Tingle – 10th
Anna Sturgis – 11th

HONOR ROLL
GPA 3.0—3.49

Shelby Phillips – 3rd
Kate Lundy – 4th
Winter Bardol – 5th
Clay Hiser – 5th
Alana Macnab – 5th
Dylon Lusin – 6th
Zakk Martin – 7th
Sarah Miller – 7th
Erin Enck – 8th
Andrea Newell – 12th

"Equipping students for excellence" at Darren Patterson Christian Academy.

SOAR!

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GRADUATION 2008

Continuing in what we have learned…

May 17, 2008 marked the 24th annual commencement exercises at Darren Patterson Christian Academy and the first graduation to be held in the new Eagle Cafetorium. Graduating this year were Dale Akers, Andrea Newell, and Ethan Smith. A continuation celebration for eighth graders was also held for Anna Cortese, Erin Enck, Melinda Green, Cole Hiser, Doug Pascarelli, Nick Pascarelli, Ethan Ritschard, Justin Snodgrass, and Daniel Velasquez.

In his address to the senior class, Pastor Brian Dengler encouraged the graduates to intentionally and diligently live out their motto *(CONTINUING IN WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED)* and to daily press on in the "race set before them" (Hebrews 12:1-3); a race that doesn't refer to a finish line, thereby implying that God's work is never finished.

In her address to the eighth grade class, Mrs. Pat Tritz referred to C.S. Lewis' book Prince Caspian, stressing the point made by the lion Aslan who states that ….*when one feels most unworthy, that is when he is in fact most worthy.* Students were directed to always live for God, despite feelings of unworthiness or inadequacy.

A slide show for each 2008 graduate, complete with music and a spoken blessing from parents, was one of the highlights of the ceremony. A special presentation of the framed photograph *Dreamcatcher* by Thomas Mangelsen was made by Mrs. Kathy Akers. Kathy and sons, Kent and Dale, wanted to thank faculty, staff, and school board members for the quality, Christian education that they have provided and for what they have meant to the Akers family the last 25 years.

Special music was provided by the DPCA Choir, and Pastor Stanton Sikes concluded the ceremony with a commissioning prayer and a blessing. A reception for graduates and those celebrating their continuation was held next door to the school at Valley Fellowship Church.

MOTTO: CONTINUING IN WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED
COLORS: ROYAL BLUE AND WHITE
SCRIPTURE: II TIMOTHY 3:14-15 - BUT AS FOR YOU, CONTINUE IN WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED AND HAVE BECOME CONVINCED OF, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THOSE FROM WHOM YOU LEARNED IT, AND HOW FROM INFANCY YOU HAVE KNOWN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES, WHICH ARE ABLE TO MAKE YOU WISE FOR SALVATION THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS.

▲ DREAMCATCHER
© Thomas Mangelsen
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▲The High School Class of 2012! Back: Nick Pascarelli, Doug Pascarelli, Ethan Ritschard, Erin Enck, Melinda Green. Front: Daniel Velasquez, Cole Hiser, Anna Cortese, Justin Snodgrass.

▲Administrator Erik Ritschard "presents" 2008 graduates Ethan Smith, Andrea Newell, and Dale Akers.

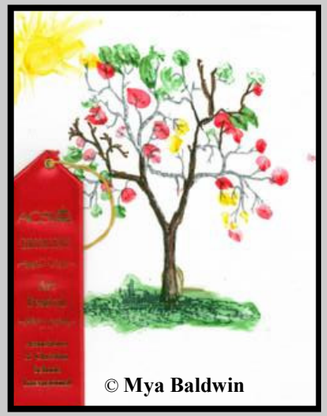
ACSI ART SHOW RESULTS

The Association of Christian Schools International holds an art fair each year in conjunction with Math Olympics, which took place in April. In addition to the Math Olympics, DPCA participates in the art fair , submitting 17 entries this year -- there were a total of 215 entries from schools across the Rocky Mountain Region. Each piece of art is judged by artists local to the Loveland, Colorado area. Loveland is the home of Resurrection Christian School where the art was exhibited. Each art piece is critiqued using categories such as presentation, composition, originality, and creative use of materials. The piece is then awarded a ribbon of Superior, Excellent, or Good.

DPCA took home 2 Superiors (Shawn Martin, Nick Pascarelli); 6 Excellents (Mya Baldwin, Keely Campbell, Madeline Green, Lauren Lovejoy, Shawn Martin, Tori McManamay); and 9 Goods (Jacob Boucher, Anna Cortese, Caleb Green, Melinda Green, Kali Lusin, Zakk Martin, Michele Pelino, Rebecca Pranger, and Jase Staudt.) Congrats artists!

© Shawn Martin

© Nick Pascarelli


© Mya Baldwin

© Keely Campbell

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© Lauren Lovejoy

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ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 2006

Michael Slavish (Cedarville, OH) - Michael is currently a junior Studio Art major and Psychology minor at Cedarville University in Ohio. He will be going on a mission trip to Kosovo this summer as well as working at Summit Ministries in Manitou Springs, CO.

Michael's spring semester '09 will be spent studying in Ireland at the Dublin Business School.

Michael says he "loves what he is doing" and plans to pursue a masters degree after completing his bachelors degree in 2010.

Though he is not sure what he will end up doing "with his life," he is reassured by the knowledge that God's plans are "more important than my own", and therefore will continue to "seek His will" in making life decisions.

▼ *Growth* by Michael Slavish

ALUMNI NEWS

Please submit the following form to: Alumni News, DPCA Development Office, PO Box 1243, Buena Vista, CO 81211 or email information to development@dpcaweb.org.

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Maiden Name_____ Email _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ ST_____ Zip _____
Year Graduated _____ Years Attended _____

News (job, school, marriage, children, publications, promotions, missions, volunteer work, etc):

FUNd RUN

Students ran, raced and relayed their way to bunches of fun on Thursday, May 15, in honor of sponsors who participated in DPCA's first annual FunD Run.

The FunD Run, modeled after similar events held in Christian schools across the country, asks families to seek sponsors for their children who participate in the run, thereby raising money for their school with very little overhead.

The Promotions Committee and the Development Office, who sponsored the event, 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 over $13,000 to date.

THANK YOU FUNd RUN SPONSORS!
YOUR GENEROSITY IS APPRECIATED!

(Sponsor list is based on donations received as of May 30, 2008)

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Jennings, Raymond and Janet
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Weed, Victor and Judy
Whaley, Dale and Kathy
Whetstone, Douglas and Sandra
White, Thomas and Tammy
Witmer, Irene
Woolmington, John and Carol
Woolmington, Parker

A FOOT STOMPIN' GOOD TIME

A Western Party was the theme of the spring program held at Darren Patterson Christian Academy on April 24.

The evening kicked off with a potluck, followed by a program that blended class performances with dances that included audience participation. Mr. Randy Barnes, the Academy's Music Teacher, directed the program and called the dances. More than 250 people, most dressed in western attire, were in attendance.

Dance music was provided by Dennis Fischer (fiddle), Amanda Smith (mandolin), Carole Barnes (guitar), and Shannon Tucker (electric bass guitar).

▲DPCA Music Teacher Randy Barnes leads a dance during the spring program.

READY, SET, GO!

May 22 dawned cold and chilly -- a seemingly typical day for DPCA's annual Track & Field Day! With spectators, volunteers and students alike layered in warm clothes, the competitions began promptly at 9:00 a.m. The sounds of whistles blowing, hands clapping, and voices cheering combined in a wave of noise that carried across the field, adding to the festive atmosphere. Some new events were sprinkled amongst the expected, with the obstacle course quickly becoming a class favorite.

This year's event was organized by Mr. Ritschard, Mr. Little, and Linsey Brasser, each of whom were backed up by an efficient group of parent and upper-classmen volunteers.

A hearty lunch that featured hamburgers and hotdogs fresh off the grill was provided compliments of Mrs. T, the 7th and 8th graders, and the always on the scene Tom and Bernadette Navarrette.

After the Track & Field events were completed, an afternoon of games was held for the entire student body and any parents who wanted to participate. An awards ceremony completed the day.

Thanks crew for putting on a most excellent event for our school!

S'MORES ANYONE?

▼Melinda tackles a tough climb.

Nick gets buried in fun.▼

The 7th and 8th grade annual 3-day trip to camp Id-Ra-Ha-Je never fails to deliver up a great time -- and this year's group confirmed once again that a 'good time was had by all.'

Events like repelling, the high ropes course, the boulder house, archery, and initiative games, provide a challenging and group building environment for all those who attended.

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

EAST COAST HIGHLIGHTS

Fifteen students and three chaperones headed to the east coast the end of April on a week long trip featuring sights and events in the Washington, D.C. and New York area.

The chaperones for the group this year were faculty member Pat Tritz, and parents Bernadette Navarrette and Maggie Pascarelli.

Mount Vernon (the home of George Washington), Arlington National Cemetery, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and Ground Zero were cited as highlights, along with seeing *The Lion King* on Broadway.

Mr. Tritz was "...pleased with the mature and Christ-like behavior the students exhibited…" on the trip -- the pace was extremely hectic and the days were 'not short'.

The trip home proved especially trying, with the group arriving at the NYC airport on Friday afternoon for an expected on-time departure; however, inclement weather in the mid-west delayed that flight (to Chicago), causing them to miss their connecting flight to DIA. After finally landing in Chicago at 10:30 p.m, the group received the news that they would not be departing for DIA until 10:45 the next morning.

Everyone finally arrived back in Buena Vista late Saturday afternoon -- concluding a 23 hour travel adventure.

THE BUTLER DID WHAT?

Ah, Ah, Ah, Chooooooo! An "Evening of Theater" at DPCA on May 9 and 10 began with a sneeze in a theater – well, actually the attempt to repress the sneeze, which finally became a lost cause as Mr. Chervyakov showered himself and Mr. Brizzhalov with the after effects of a tremendous sneeze. Unfortunately for Mr. Chervyakov, Mr. Brizzhalov was a senior government official of Imperial Russia, and it was imperative that Chervyakov make amends for ruining Brizzhalov's night at the ballet.

After the introduction and setting of the scene by narrators Aaron Andreas and Abbie Tingle, the DPCA audience enjoyed the antics of Mr. and Mrs. Chervyakov (played by Ethan Smith and Larisa Smith) as they tried to atone for the insult given to Mr. and Mrs. Brizzhalov (Aaron Axe and Sarah Navarrette). Aided by Aaron and Abbie, who joined in as members of the "theater audience," the cast provided the audience with laughs and fun as Chervyakov first tried to clean up from the sneeze and then apologize. That the body of the play was performed completely without speaking only added to the comic nature of the action. The unexpected ending in which Chervyakov succumbed to his own stress and expired on Brizzhalov's lap brought down both the lights and enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Following a short pause while the stage was re-set, the lights came back up on a very different scene – the living room of "Spanish Moss," an old mansion in the swamps of Louisiana. There the farcical, comic story of an odd mystery weekend, hosted by publisher Miss Maple (Nicole Pranger), unfolded as mystery writers Chandler Marlowe (Nathan Ritschard), Rick and Laura Carlyle (Tanner Brasser and Erin Enck), Tony Tallchief (Jon Tingle), Louie Fan (Juan Velasquez), Father White (Zach Tingle), and cranky newcomer Ruth Dice (Dallas O'Neal) tried to please their publisher, keep their writing careers alive, and figure out what on earth is going on at Spanish Moss. Swamp waters, a nearby insane asylum, an alligator named Charlie, and a wonderful set built by Harvey Brasser, Brad Pranger, and several students helped set the mysterious tone.

The eccentric housekeeper, Mrs. Danvers (Hannah Tingle) added to the fun as did the unforgettable role of the butler Chips, played by Dale Akers. Unexpected guest Linda Hayes (Michelle Miller) brought a further air of mystery to the plot as the weekend began to progress in ways that Miss Maple did not expect and the writers tried to figure out what was real and what was part of the game. When a "real" murder intruded (dead body played by Noah Ritschard), the action quickened and the weekend appeared to take a turn for the worse. The confusion increased as Mrs. Danvers decided to add the character of Eunice, her fictitious sister, into the mix. A noose in the night began to bring the play to its climax as Chandler Marlowe was called upon to solve the crime and resolve the multiple mysteries surrounding a weekend gone awry. When Chandler revealed that Miss Maple's social secretary Jane Doe (Melinda Green) was the prime suspect, chaos broke out, and Jane made her escape to the swamp. There Charlie had the last burp, and other mysteries were resolved as the audience learned that Chips was not who he appeared to be. Miss Maple rather too-casually decided that "all's well that ends well," and Louie Fan got in the last word as the lights fell and the actors were again rewarded with enthusiastic applause.

Top L-R: Abbie, Ethan, Larissa, and Sarah in *The Sneeze.*

Above L-R: Melinda, Michelle, Dale, and Nicole in *The Butler Did It, Again!*

Left: The cast and crew of the 2008 dramas.

Anton Checkov's "The Sneeze," and Tim Kelly's "The Butler Did It, Again!," were directed by Erik and Jani Ritschard and produced by special arrangement with Baker's Plays. Assistance with lights and sound was provided by Ethan Ritschard and Aaron Green, while costumes and stage management were overseen by Shawn Martin. Stage hands Micah Ritschard and Zakk Martin helped with sets, properties, and special effects during the production.

New features for DPCA this year were the addition of a dinner theater and having the play run for two nights. The very popular dinner theater sold out the week before the production, and another spirited audience filled the seats for the Saturday night performance as well. Audience, parents, and teachers all agreed that the DPCA students turned in a wonderful performance.

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