

THE PARK PARTNER

SPRING 2019

Thankful for
249
GHD Donors

What I See

CELEBRATING
GOD'S
FAITHFULNESS

PCS
PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



WHAT I SEE...

Chris Nellermoe, *President*

As I consider the many blessings of the past six months, one word keeps echoing in my mind: Generosity! In 1 Timothy 6, God's Word calls us to "be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." My heart is filled with gratitude as I recall the countless ways that students, teachers/staff, families, grandparents and friends of PCS have made an incredible difference in our school through their generosity! Let me share with you just a few of those generous acts.

Recently, I learned of a third-grade girl who is being taught by her parents to budget the money she earns in categories of give, save and spend. Putting her budgeting lessons into action, this young lady decided she wanted to give her 'give' allocation to Park Christian. But that's not all! She also wanted to give her 'spend' dollars to the PCS Expansion Project. Her dad did pause and consider questioning her on this, but instead he chose to rejoice in his daughter's generous spirit and her willingness to give freely!

Our parents join us in so many ways to help PCS run effectively from day to day. From listening to students recite weekly Bible verses, to folding mailings, to serving in the kitchen or blessing the teachers and staff - the list is endless. When I consider the hours that are freely given, I am so thankful. Just in this past week, we have had parents join us to shovel off our roof, giving freely of their time. We also have parents giving countless hours to serve our school in the construction process as our owner's representative/construction management or in volunteering to lead our school as part of the PCS School Board. In each of these examples and in so many other ways, our parents serve so very generously to help make PCS an amazing place!

We also want to express our deep gratitude for the generosity of 249 donors who joined us on Giving Hearts Day, as well as the grandparents and a friend of the school who committed

\$50,000 each to provide matching funds. We praise God for the \$640,000 donated to PCS since July 1, 2018, in support of our students, teachers, staff and expansion efforts!

Finally, I am so grateful for the commitment and generosity of our teachers and staff who faithfully serve our school, students, and families. They invest themselves into planning dynamic lessons, caring for our families and sharing Christ with students daily.

Thank you, Park Partners! In all of this, be assured that our mission remains the same—to equip our students with these specific outcomes:

1. To love like Jesus loved with hearts aligned to God's word.
2. To utilize their knowledge and experience with discernment and integrity for the glory of God.
3. To have a meaningful impact on the world around them through their quiet presence or dynamic leadership.

... BUT [WE] PUT OUR HOPE IN GOD, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES US WITH EVERYTHING FOR OUR ENJOYMENT. COMMAND THEM TO DO GOOD, TO BE RICH IN GOOD DEEDS, AND TO BE GENEROUS AND WILLING TO SHARE. IN THIS WAY THEY WILL LAY UP TREASURE FOR THEMSELVES AS A FIRM FOUNDATION FOR THE COMING AGE, SO THAT THEY MAY TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT IS TRULY LIFE.

1 TIMOTHY 6:17B-19

PCS HITS NEW RECORD

Donations totaling

\$250,944.24!

Thank you to all 249 Donors





CELEBRATING GOD'S FAITHFULNESS - PCS EXPANSION PROJECT

Park Christian 2nd Grade teacher Kristen Reinowski has served as prayer coordinator over the school's building project since 2013. She has prayed weekly with other staff and often daily with her own students since that time.

"First we were praying over the south Moorhead location, then over the decision to stay in north Moorhead, and now for the current project," Reinowski said.

Six years later, Reinowski is grateful for God's provision and His perfect timing. "You pray and you hope, and sometimes you wonder, is He answering?" she said. "Along the way, plans changed and it all felt so hypothetical for a long time. But then... putting the shovel in the ground... That was an amazing day. He answered!"

The groundbreaking happened last May. In the midst of the celebrating, Reinowski was tracking down former students. "Look what you prayed for!" she said to them.

Many prayers have been answered since 2016, when a Design Task Force was formed and teachers were invited to meet with architects to dream about possibilities and plan for a facility that could meet the needs of 600 students.

The overall \$10.8 million project is being completed as funds are received to stay within budget. To date, pledges and donations have been made that allow the school to complete Phase One debt free.

Project Executive Jason Loney has enjoyed the process from dreaming and design to hammer and nail. "Seeing it come to life exactly as we had envisioned it -- that's exciting!" Loney said.

Loney is Vice President of Store Development for Scheel's, and he is also a Park parent. "It has been fun to work with two other Park dads (Lance Ziebarth and Mark Jacobson of ZCON) and see how the Lord has put these guys in place to lead this project," Loney said. He has high praise for both Jacobson and Ziebarth.

"Mark has been diligent to watch over all the details and see that everything is being done in the school's best interest," Loney says, "and Lance keeps an eye on the big picture and the timeline."

Jacobson, who serves both as project manager and site superintendent, is thankful that even with the heavy snow this winter, the timeline is on track. "We've had a few hiccups along the way," Jacobson said, "but that's construction."

These days, Jacobson says you can feel the energy. "The teachers and staff are starting to ask more questions, and Teresa -- she's beyond excited. She's giddy!" Jacobson said of PCS Director of Marketing and Admissions, Teresa Nickel.

Krista Rankin, who teaches physical and chemical sciences, is greatly anticipating what new science rooms will mean to the program at Park. "We have been limited in chemistry particularly because we don't have a hood. There was no way to retrofit a hood in my original classroom," Rankin said.

She is also grateful that the project includes a workspace between the two science classrooms, allowing for greater collaboration and sharing of equipment with Kyle Kemp, life sciences teacher. "That space will also increase safety because currently chemicals are stored in a locked closet in my classroom," Rankin explained. "This new workroom will be locked and I can work with and store chemicals between classes in a secured area."

According to Rankin, they will be able to give students more opportunities to earn college credit without putting a strain on elective offerings. "I am very excited about the future and new adventures," she said.

In the not too distant future, Reinowski looks forward to her children (currently ages 2 1/2 and 16 months) becoming Falcons. She knows it can be easy to start taking the PCS environment for granted. "The fact that it's a norm for us to pray together in class, have devotions as staff, and pray with parents at conferences... I can describe all that to my husband," she said, "but I can't wait for him to experience it firsthand as a parent."

Reinowski, who graduated from Park Christian School in 2007, recalls that good things were happening in those days, too. And those changes, she says, were answers to prayer for others. Now the cycle continues.

"The school just keeps moving forward," she said. "It's exciting that the place where God did so much in my heart as a kid is thriving and expanding."

STUDENTS ON THE MOVE

PCS is pleased to announce that three seniors will be going on to compete in their sports at the collegiate level: **Alex Iverson**, at Bemidji State in golf; **Emily Doeden**, at Colorado Christian in golf; and **Cam Hoff** at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa Idaho to play soccer!



The PCS Tri-College Mathletes did well today! **Sam Carlson** placed in the top 10 of the 11th/12th grade division; **Nate Krause** placed in the top 10 of the 9th/10th grade division; and the 11th/12th grade team, consisting of **Kai Nellerroe**, **Cam Hoff**, **Tommy Stueland**, **Signe Harris**, **Sam Carlson**, **Tanner Brunsberg**, **Kiley Christianson**, and **Jacob Jelinski**, took 2nd place overall! The teams are coached by **Mrs. Kathy Hanson**, **Mrs. Amanda Biebighauser** and **Mr. Matthew Larson**. Congratulations team!



The PCS Cheer Team placed 2nd in the State academically with a GPA of 3.75.



Hadley Christianson (6th grade) won the 2019 PCS Spelling Bee. She then went on to the Regional Bee and took 1st place!



Lauren Knoll was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal Award. This is an award for young Americans, established by the United States Congress in 1979 to “recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people.” It is nonpartisan, voluntary, non-competitive and open to all youth ages 13 ½ to 23.

The Congressional Award recognizes the setting and meeting of goals in four program areas: Voluntary Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration. Based on time commitments to each of the areas, participants earn Bronze, Silver, or Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver, or Gold Congressional Award Medals.

Lauren has been invited to attend the 2019 Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington, D.C., on June 19-21. This annual ceremony will celebrate over 400 of America’s most deserving youth who have dedicated years of goal-setting and determination to earn Congress’ highest honor.

PCS ALUMNA

KORY KOWALSKI, '06

I had the privilege of attending Park Christian School from Kindergarten through 12th grade. I graduated in 2006 and pursued a degree in Pharmacy from NDSU. I graduated in 2012 from NDSU and currently practice as a pharmacist at Linson Pharmacy in Fargo, ND. I married my wife Rochelle (Rogness) in 2011, and we have three beautiful children - Hunter (5), Grace (3), and Harrison (1).

The request to write this article is quite timely. I found myself walking through the doors of my former school a few weeks ago holding the hand of my oldest son. We were taking Hunter to Kindergarten roundup to explore what this next year will look like for him. I quickly became flooded with emotions and memories as I walked back into the school that I called home for 13 years of my life. I could hardly believe that I was guiding my own son into the same classroom that I walked into as a kindergartner over 25 years ago. As we walked down the elementary hallway to the new addition, I was naming every one of my old teacher's classrooms (Ms. Headland, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Schaefer, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Sivertson, Mrs. Frank). I can vividly remember memories from each one of those amazing individuals that daily prayed for me, taught me, and encouraged me into the follower of Jesus I am today.

We sat in the library as Mr. Nellerhoe talked to us parents about the current culture and heartbeat of Park. I have always appreciated my time at Park, but it really sunk in again while sitting there how big of an impact this school has had on my life. I was encouraged to

think about how much of an impact it is going to have on the lives of my children in the years to come. Many things have changed at Park over the years, but the one thing that has remained constant is the primary focus of keeping Christ at the center of everything. I find great comfort in knowing that my kids are going to be lifted up in prayer by teachers and staff on a daily basis as we enter this next season of life. I am encouraged that the academic standards for excellence remain strong as they teach and mold our future generations.

Life is filled with so many different seasons. Some of those seasons are filled with joyful memories and others are filled with sad and challenging memories. I can honestly say that my season of attending Park Christian was one of the most important and joyful seasons of my life. It has equipped me in ways beyond my comprehension or understanding. I would not be the man that I am today if it weren't for the shaping and molding that happened in my life while at Park for 13 years.

I recently finished leading a men's Bible study on the book of James at my church. I honestly haven't done an in-depth study of James since my junior year of high school when Mr. Smithson had us memorize the entire book! I was amazed at how much of God's Word that was hidden in my heart from 14 years ago came back to me as I studied the book of James with these men. We are all called to something in life. I have been called to be a husband, dad, son, brother, friend, pharmacist, leader, and ultimately a follower of Jesus. Whether I am teaching a patient about the side effects of their new anti-coagulant or playing with my children, I am called to love people where they are at and point them to Jesus. I am so thankful that Park has had an influence on each one of those areas of my life. My prayer is that Park would continue to seek the Lord as they move forward in equipping our children to think biblically, live wisely, and serve faithfully!

*Kory, Rochelle
Hunter, Grace & Harrison
Kowalski*

*13 potential
NEW STUDENTS ARE
PCS ALUMNI KIDS.
We love our
Alumni!*



WITH TRANSITION BRINGS EXCITEMENT

A master plan is underway to move students incrementally from one part of the school to another so remodeling can occur. Kris Weinberger's 6th grade class was the first to move. "We were right next door to the noise," Weinberger said. "But the noises are proof that things are happening and it's all because of God's goodness."

Moving your classroom - twice - during the school year is certainly not ideal. "Yes, there is some hassle," Weinberger acknowledged, "but that's part of the growing pains. You just do it and get it done." And, Weinberger adds, there is a bright side. "I purged like you wouldn't believe," she says, with a laugh.

Weinberger was blessed by everyone who helped her with the move. Mr. Newton cleaned the carpet in their temporary space. Teachers who couldn't leave their own classes offered to take in her students. High school teachers Krista Rankin and Brianna Isaak stopped by to check on her and ended up helping with a few technology issues. The high school boys in Mrs. Isaak's study hall were made available to help move boxes.

Parents got involved, too. "Moms moved my things like they were moving their own items into a new kitchen -- with great care and wanting to keep it all organized."

That kind of teamwork and Park family spirit makes Weinberger want to give back. "Now it's my turn to help," she said. "I've already offered to take second-graders in when their class moves. My kids can't wait to do that."

The expansion brings new teaching possibilities with multi-purpose spaces that will allow for greater collaboration between classes. "We've not had that luxury, but it will be wonderful to enjoy the freedom to move about more and have room for 2 or 3 classes to meet together, or allow the kids to sprawl out on the floor and work on a project," Weinberger noted.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To get the most up-to-date calendar information, click on the calendar page of our website: ParkChristianSchool.org

May 11..... Jr/Sr Banquet
May 22..... Baccalaureate
May 26..... Graduation
June 24..... PCS Golf Scramble
(at the Hawley Golf and Country Club)
December 20..... Alumni Game

Elementary Chapels:

Mondays, 8:10-8:40 A.M. in the Fine Arts Room.

Jr & Sr High Chapels:

Mondays, 8:10-8:50 A.M. in the gym.

Park Christian School welcomes guests to Chapel.

MEMBER CHURCHES

Bethel Church
(since 1981)

**Calvary Church at
Village Green**
(since 2014)

**Fargo First Assembly
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(since 1981)

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(since 1993)

**River Valley
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Salem Evangelical Free
(since 1991)

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