

# THE PARKPARTNER

SPRING 2017

*Alumni*

*We Maximized  
the Match!*

**EXPANSION  
UPDATE**

Photo from  
Fill the  
Dome

**12-YEAR OLD  
SPEED READER TURNS**

*Author*

**FCS**

**PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



## INTERIM PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL CHRIS NELLERMOE

### **Tell us about your childhood. What one person outside of your family played an influential role in your youth?**

I am a Moorhead boy! I was raised in a home near Concordia College, attended Riverside Elementary, Central Jr. High, South Jr. High, and Moorhead High schools. It was a typical childhood: playing with neighborhood friends, riding my bike all over town, and being invested in the local schools and Concordia College. Both my dad and grandfather taught at Concordia College for approximately 40 years each. So my Saturdays in the fall were spent at Jake Christensen Stadium cheering on the Cobbers. My high school youth directors from Good Shepherd Lutheran were very influential. Matt & Kathy Valen and Dave & Anne Larson invested tremendous amounts of time into my life, personally and spiritually.

### **Tell us about your faith journey! When did your walk with Jesus become the core of your life?**

It is great to consider all of the people who are the Gospel in our lives, from my family faithfully going to church and valuing Christ in our home to extended family and a rich heritage, and friends and Sunday school teachers all pointing to how much God loves each one of us! Yet, it wasn't until the spring of my senior year in high school, when I attended a weekend retreat called Teen's Encounter Christ (TEC) that I made my own personal decision. The Gospel was so clearly presented to me

during this weekend, and in April 1984 I accepted Jesus as my Savior. A year later, I had the opportunity to attend a Torchbearer Bible School in Germany, and it was there that my faith solidified.

### **Tell us about your role as Interim President and Principal at PCS!**

It is a privilege to serve in the role of Interim President and Principal and to continue to carry out the mission of PCS. We choose to be distinctly Christian, on purpose, while delivering academic excellence in the classroom. This is a great place, and it is a joy to partner with Christian parents in helping our students achieve their best! It has been great to see our current facility expand to accommodate our current students more effectively and to serve families in the greater Fargo-Moorhead region.

### **If you had to choose one verse from the Bible for the theme of your life, what would it be?**

Colossians 3:23 has been an anchor verse for me.



**Jared Motschenbacher** has been awarded a Full-Tuition STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) Scholarship to NDSU



## REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Nine Students qualified for State

**Cheyenne Bailey**  
**Emma Bjerke**  
**Ingrid Erickson**  
**Cameron Hoff**  
**Nicole Jasperse**  
**Maggie Kerrins**  
**Lauren Knoll**  
**Ben Ostlie**  
**Loren Steinberg**

## OVERALL REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Fourteen special awards, nine 2nd place, and three 3rd place were all earned with the top being awarded to:

**Lauren Knoll**  
**Nicole Jasperse**

Lauren Knoll will advance to state in both her project and paper.

*Congratulations, students and PCS science teachers, Mrs. Krista Rankin and Mrs. Nancy Schnabel.*



## MN STATE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

**Grace Schmidt**, 8th grader, has qualified to compete in the Minnesota State competition of the National Geographic Bee.

One champion from each state and territory will advance to the National Geographic Bee Championship, which will be held May 14-18 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C.

We are proud of Grace's performance and look forward to this challenging competition.



## MINNESOTA STATE SPELLING BEE

After winning the Park Christian school level Spelling Bee, **Sophia Beach** (grade 7) took 5th place at the District Level (there are 7 Districts in the state of MN), against twenty-six other participants. The top five contestants moved on to the State Level Competition, where Sophia placed 9th.

Park Christian School is proud of Sophia's performance in the State Bee.



## PCS STUDENTS SERVING FAITHFULLY



### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Two-hundred-sixty PCS students (grades 5-12) and adults served at the annual Feed My Starving Children event. They packed 297 boxes, which equals 64,152 meals.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Park Christian students packed and prayed over 272 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, and PCS families generously gave \$810 toward mailing the boxes.

# PCS ALUMNUS

SIMON EGGIMAN, '12

As I have begun my role in youth ministries at Inspiration Point Christian Camp and Retreat Center, I have had the opportunity to reflect on how I have gotten to this point in life. As I look back on my years at Park, I realize the blessing that the school has been in my life. Having a role in ministry, I now realize the importance of being in an environment that equips students to stand firmly in their faith. I also was able to reflect upon the teachers who impacted my life. Yes, it is true, these teachers are doing their jobs, but they go above and beyond the job description they are given. Having teachers who truly cared about my future and my faith had an incredible impact on the man that I am today. I know that the Lord is using the faculty at Park to help prepare leaders to serve in a need-filled and broken world.

In my current role at I-point, I have been preparing for a summer full of activities and lessons that not only allow kids to have fun, but also help them to grow closer to God. It is the hardest, most rewarding job I have ever had. I get to spend every day doing work that is truly meaningful. I ask that you partner with I-Point in the coming months as we prepare for thousands of guests to be on our grounds this summer. Pray that the Gospel would be heard clearly and that kids would know that they are valuable and loved by their Creator. I know that the work done at both PCS and I-Point helps to strengthen what kids are learning at home and at church.

I'm again so thankful for the role that Park Christian School played in preparing me for my future -- and for this job!

Guest  
speaker in  
PCS Chapel

## WHAT IMPACT HAS PARK CHRISTIAN HAD ON YOUR FAMILY AS A WHOLE?

“Park Christian School has provided an incredible cohesiveness, especially in a culture that splits families between two, three, or even four schools. Our family is close because we do more LIFE together. The kids connect around the dinner table or riding together in the car because they share the same school, the same stories, the same culture. We've found unspeakable value in smaller class sizes, in a school where upperclassmen are reading to kindergartners, in a place where teachers eat lunch with the students and families attend school events together. Our kids speak so highly of their teachers and compassionate staff who value faith and the heart and character of the child above all else. The school as a whole is a family, and our family is closer because of it.”

*Dan, Tammy, Emily, Madison, and Tanner Doeden*





## A DESIRE OF A MOTHER'S HEART

*An anonymous story of blessing and impact from a new PCS family*

### What has God done in your lives through PCS?

"It was the deepest desire of my heart to get our son to this school. I graduated from a private school, and that gave me such security and belonging because I knew everyone was deeply invested in my life and future. I praise the Lord that we can be part of Park Christian! The change that has happened is something only Jesus could do; it's unreal. My son has grown in amazing ways – love for Jesus and the Bible, a heart for soul winning, and in passion for learning the truth every day. What has happened in our lives because of Park is unreal; it has exceeded our expectations, which were very high to begin with! The school has totally changed my son and given him more love, obedience, and a more aggressive desire to learn and compete instead of just giving the last effort possible in order to get by. He wants to do well in school, and his heart is softer."

### What would you tell other families who are praying about partnering with PCS in this season?

"The difference at Park flows partially from the staff. They aren't just giving him academic information, but a Christ-focus in every subject he studies. Teachers are ministering to the deepest level of his heart, partnering with our family, and showing him that he really is wanted. I see it in his eyes every day! He feels like he really does matter, which is something he's needed this year more than ever. He's a different boy! How you're treated affects how you'll go out and treat others. I've noticed a change in him – he holds doors for people, he is kind to absolutely everyone, and he has a new passion for his future. I see his potential to succeed has skyrocketed and financially that's worth anything we could invest – it's worth it one million times."

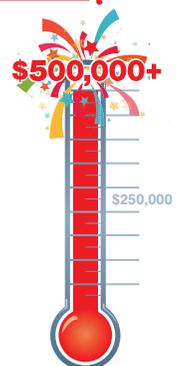
## PCS EXPANSION UPDATE

The PCS Expansion plans are rolling along smoothly. In February, PCS hired JLG Architects to guide us through a master campus schematic design process. This was after an extensive proposal process with area architecture firms. The process is well under way with several listening sessions that include PCS students, faculty and administration as well as the Design Task Force, School Board and parents. This phase of the process is slated to wrap up in May 2017, and at that point we will see where the fundraising is in order to determine the next steps and timeline. If you would like to be involved in any part of the design process, please contact the Park Christian School Office.

Jason Loney, PCS parent, Expansion Project Executive Chair

We **MAXIMIZE** <sup>10</sup>  
**THE MATCH!**

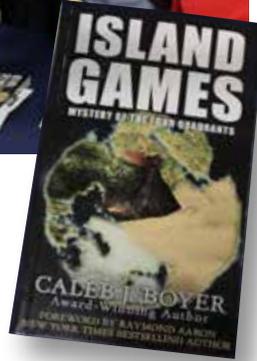
Thanks to many generous donors and SCHEELS, we are delighted to announce we hit the goal and Maximized the Match by the deadline of December 1!



# CALEB BOYER STUDENT, BUSINESS OWNER & AUTHOR

Caleb Boyer, a 12-year-old speed reader and business owner, released his first novel 'Island Games: Mystery of the Four Quadrants'. Caleb is a 7th grader at Park Christian School.

The remarkable young man, who has been speed reading since the age of four and a half and recently founded a company to inspire individuals to read and write, has decided to translate his passion for speed reading into an exciting adventure story that provides a message of inspiration for overcoming obstacles in life.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To get the most up-to-date calendar information, click on the calendar page of our website: [ParkChristianSchool.org](http://ParkChristianSchool.org)

April 29..... Jr/Sr Banquet  
 May 24..... Baccalaureate  
 May 28..... Graduation  
 June 26..... Golf Scramble  
 (at the Hawley Golf and Country Club)

### 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  
of God**  
(since 1981)

**Metropolitan Baptist**  
(since 1993)

**River Valley  
Assembly of God**  
(since 1991)

**Salem Evangelical  
Free**  
(since 1991)

**Triumph Lutheran  
Brethren**  
(since 1996)

**Giving  
Hearts  
Day**

FEB 9TH

195 donors made this possible

**\$132,695**

**RAISED IN ONE DAY!**

Thank you to all our generous donors.

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