

# THE SIGNET



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## From the Head of School

### God's Providence at Phil-Mont

*Protection, Provision and Promise*

Whenever we look toward the future we cannot help but be impacted by a review of our past. I continue to be amazed by the evidence of God's fingerprints upon our school as I seek personally to appreciate the richness of our sixty plus year history. However, since I have been serving at PMCA for a mere three years, my focus is fixed more upon tracing trends of God's engagement with us over that period. I am moved with gratitude and humbled by His continuing grace.

I have seen God's hand in many ways through His protection, His provision, and His promise, and I continue to be encouraged for the future of our mission. Within the last decade, the leadership and supporters of PMCA have had to face the realities of a changing educational culture and marketplace that contributed to declines in enrollment and revenues. Major decisions regarding consolidating our campuses were made that were difficult for many who shared in the building of this ministry over the years. Those same decisions sent fear through our constituents regarding lack of viability and sustainability for our future, but God honored those decisions made in faith and allowed us to sell a campus facility at or near a pinnacle of realty value. As a

result, PMCA was able to retire its debt loads, prepare the Hillcrest campus for multiple level programs, and retain some cash holdings in the bank. The fruit of those consolidation decisions protected us from an economic crisis in our country that even now continues to threaten the survival of other schools which have not been so blessed. He has certainly protected us and permitted us a position of relative stability in the midst of shifting sands.

Not only has God protected us from economic demise, but He also has been blessing us through provision. Over the last several years the declining enrollment leading to consolidation has been stabilized and programming efforts have remained strong. The same economic stresses that threatened our school also hit at the employment and incomes of families already sacrificing to satisfy tuition costs. In the midst of those stresses, though we have seen a few instances of job loss, the

continued sacrifice of parents, combined with some temporary assistance in severe cases, has allowed our numbers over the course of the year to not only hold but actually to increase by a few. God also has provided through the fruit of faithful supporters who prior to their passing into glory had remembered us in their estate planning. It is yet another example that in the midst of trial, God has shown Himself as the faithful and continuing provider.

God's protection and His provision are what enable us to face our future days with promise. Though we cannot assume that His promise means we shall always be here, it does give us assurance of His blessing as we continue to be faithful to Him through our mission and vision. Nearing completion is a volume of history being assembled by Mrs. Jean Gaffin. A few of us involved in its review and editing process have had the privilege of peeking into its pages, and we see example after example of God's



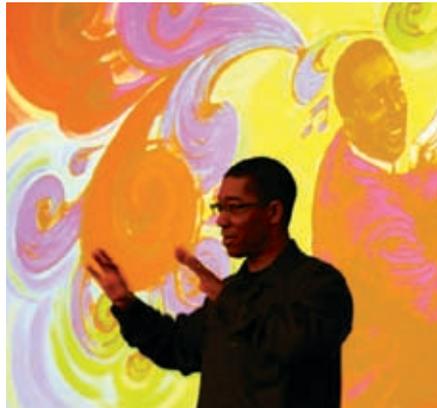
A number of our graduates have chosen to return to PMCA as teachers, passing on to the next generation the blessings of a Christian education. Pictured here are High School English Teacher Faith (Gross) Schutte '02; Elementary and Middle School PE teacher Bill DeHeer '82; Third Grade Teacher Kim Gunn '91, High School Math Teacher Bethany (Burkett) Van Veldhuizen '99; and High School Art Teacher Matt Stemler '89.

# Brian Pinkney: Author, Illustrator, Percussionist

On Monday, January 11th, author/illustrator Brian Pinkney came to PMCA and spoke to all of the students in special assemblies. Mr. Pinkney has won numerous awards for his books, including a Caldecott honor award, a Coretta Scott King award, four Coretta Scott King honor awards and the Boston Globe/Horn Book Award. He is a graduate of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and holds a master's degree in illustration from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. Delighting the audiences in each of the three assemblies, Mr. Pinkney told the students about his life, his books and particularly about the styles he employs to illustrate his books.

Mr. Pinkney was enthusiastic and energetic. He drew a picture for the younger students, read one of his books to all the students and even played the drums. He explained to the students that he has a learning difference which causes him

Brian Pinkney shows off his percussion skills as he takes a break from speaking during an assembly.



Mr. Pinkney explains technique to the students; the backdrop is an illustration from his Caldecott Honor book, *Duke Ellington: The Piano Prince and His Orchestra*.

to be unable to concentrate for very long on one task. After twenty minutes of entertaining the students with stories and pictures of his art and his life, Mr. Pinkney sat down and played the drums; teaching all the students a drumming pattern which the younger children happily imitated.

In the afternoon, Mr. Pinkney met with our Advanced Placement and Advanced Art students in the art room. During that session he taught our students many principles of drawing. He also explained the process he follows to create an illustration and the technique of scratchboard. Using many examples from his own life, he informed our art students what life is like as a full-time artist and illustrator. We are honored that Mr. Pinkney came and thankful for the opportunity to hear from such an accomplished author and illustrator. ■■

*(continued from page 1)  
God's Providence at Phil-Mont*

presence, protection and provision throughout our history. (Soon we hope to make the finished product available to you for your own reminiscing, appreciation, and edification.) Seeing how God has continued to bless us through the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of parents and churches has been awesome. That same promise of continuing streams of ambassadors heading from here to college, career, and community service to impact the culture for Christ remains for us today. It is that promise that motivates career Phil-Mont faculty such as Paul MacQueen, Joel Bacon, Dan Kunkle, Chip Struck and Tom Sorkness to continue with zeal and vigor. It is that promise that we hope will continue to solidify our mid-career faculty such as Betsy Rockey, Tim Eimer, and Bill DeHeer to mentor not only students, but also new and younger teachers in the effective efforts of Biblical worldview education. It is that promise of seeing God exalted and lifted up in an increasingly challenging culture that excites us about current teaching alumni such as Beth VanVeldhuizen, Kim Gunn, Faith Schutte, and Matt Stemler assuming the upcoming roles of leadership of an even newer generation of Phil-Mont students and graduates.

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## God has provided the fruit of faithful supporters

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Much more could be said about our position for the future. For now, may we simply take time to reflect upon the many ways God has protected us, provided for us, and continues to promise His presence among us in the changing and exciting days, months, and years we yet have before us. May He continue to be the primary hand that cares for us and may He continue to be the recipient of our grateful praise. ■■

*Donald B. Beebe  
Head of School*

## From the President's Laptop

Starting from our humble beginnings of just grades 1 to 3 in part of a church in Willow Grove in 1943, spanning seven decades, twelve campuses, and over 1,700 alumni to the 350 students currently enrolled at Hillcrest, the sovereign work of our merciful and loving shepherd has been revealed in every classroom. Even today, God's hand is visibly active in this school and in the lives of the students, their families, the faculty, staff, board and alumni.

For those of you who have ministered to, and been blessed by, Phil-Mont over the breadth of the school's 67 year history, this will not come as a surprise. For those of you who, like me, have only been affiliated with the school for fifteen years or less this might be a bit more of a revelation.

Through wars, recessions, bubbles, busts and boom times, all times of uncertainty, four things remains constant: The Lord's faithfulness to PMCA; the sacrifice and commitment of our parents, grandparents and caregivers in seeing their children educated from a biblical perspective; the sacrifice and commitment of our faculty and staff; and lastly the sacrificial giving of our supporters. These things all have contributed to the current condition of PMCA. Even in the midst of the uncertainty that is swirling all around us, PMCA finds itself in a stable position thanks directly to these four areas of support. The Board of Trustees is eternally grateful for all of the factors that have contributed to the current state of the school.

I want to encourage you to join me in thanking God for all of the things that I have mentioned and to pray that the Lord would continue to strengthen and empower all who contribute to make PMCA what it is. *"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; He is the Faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commandments."* Deut. 7:9

In His Service,  
Mike Major, President,  
Board of Trustees

# Phil-Mont Phaculty: Staying the Course at the Academy

Will Liegel

Many Christian schools might do well to borrow an architectural idea from the skyscrapers of Manhattan – why not install one of those lovely revolving doors at the teachers' entrance? You know, the kind that makes that repeated "whoosh, whoosh, whoosh" sound and always seems to catch at your heels? The fact is that many Christian schools wind up with a figurative faculty revolving door. Teachers come, stay for a year or two of service, and then move on to another ministry or position. The reasons for departure? Perhaps it's the notoriously low salaries as compared with other occupations or public education. Maybe it's the stress from added duties that naturally go with smaller works and which stretch one's schedule and spirit. Maybe it's just a natural transition into church work or departing for a mission field or stepping up to college work or a plethora of other fine alternatives.

What ever the reasons for the door to revolve at other schools, no such entrance or exit exists at Phil-Mont! The truth is that with only about 50 folks on staff, nearly TWENTY have been here almost twenty years or more. Yes, it is very common to have Phil-Mont teachers mentoring the children of students who sat in their classes in decades past. One has even reached the stage where he could actually teach the grandchildren of students he's had... but I get ahead of myself.

The longevity situation that exists at Phil-Mont is something I personally take for granted. My wife Susan and I are just about to enter our own twentieth years at the Academy and when we started



## Science and Math

Left: Joel Bacon (35 yrs) Still claiming the most cluttered desk in school, he continues to watch birds, follow the weather, roll bowling balls down the hall, and generally blow things up. Wife Janet works in communications/admissions and all three sons, Nicholas, James, and Nathaniel, are now alumni.

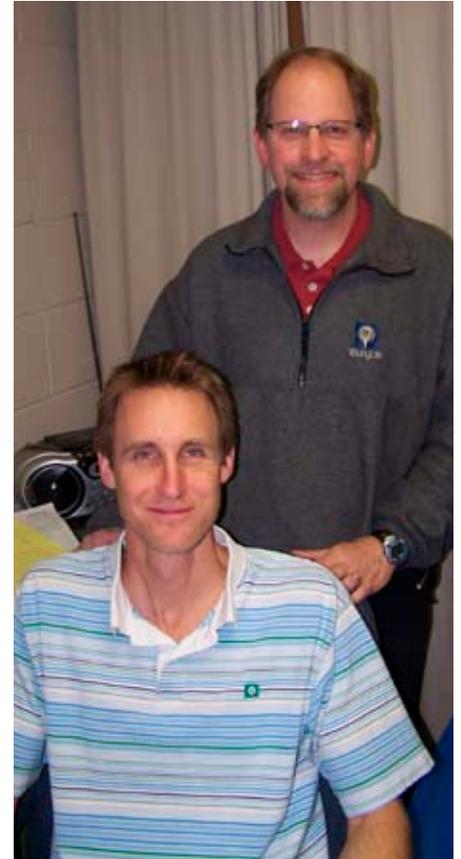
Middle: Paul MacQueen (41 yrs) The "youngest mature guy on campus," he is still known for his dead cats, biology drawings, family photos, mounted specimens, spotless lab coat, and passion for the New York Times. With 11 grandchildren from his 6 children, he came straight from Northeastern Illinois University to Phil-Mont and is now the silver-haired guy who might soon be teaching the grandchildren of his former students.

Right: Ron Bierema (28 yrs) Still the most gentle guy around, he continues to coach tennis, guide chess players, display his weekly math puzzles, and play a truly anointed worship piano. Daughter Christine is now a senior, with brothers Jeremy and Nathan not far behind.

here it was with wonderful peers who had been around a while and who willingly helped to shape younger teachers. These folks are still around and, for us, they are as expected and intrinsic to Phil-Mont as the Academy's carved entranceway or library fireplace. They are Phil-Mont! However, I was awakened to an interesting fact while attending the recent funeral of an older friend. Her granddaughter graduated from Phil-Mont a dozen-plus years ago and as we chatted over cookies and punch, I suddenly realized that not everyone knows what I know. She innocently queried, "Besides you, is anyone still on staff who I'd know?" "Certainly!" I replied. "Mr. Bacon, Mr. Bierema, and Mr. MacQueen... and that's just the science/math people!"

She'd kept in touch with fellow grads and still loved and supported the school, but really had no idea who was at the front of our classrooms. Therefore... this article! I believe that EVERYONE - alumni, new families, donors, current students, moms and dads, anyone who is reading *The Signet*

for even the most enthusiastic educator – but the spine of this school is maturity, experience, and commitment. Alumni, come visit and speak with your former teachers. Parents, be grateful that so many of the folks leading your students are so dedicated. Students, understand that each day decades of training and experience stand before you. Signet readers, spread the word on the firm and focused faculty at our humble Academy. And everyone, read about the senior teachers, marvel at their graying hair and changing physiques, and be blessed to know that, around Phil-Mont, the door just doesn't revolve!



#### Phys Ed above

Left: Bill DeHeer (23 yrs) After 12 years as a PMCA student, he just couldn't stay away. Now wife Lona teaches occasional health classes and sons Lee, James, Samuel, and Thomas all are in his classes. He still teaches tinkling, coaches basketball, smiles a lot, and is very tall!

Right: Chip Struck (32 yrs) Daily reminding his sweaty charges that "the power comes from within," Coach directs all PMCA athletics with a special love for his Pheidippidian runners, proven by their 21 championship seasons (19 Keystone, 1 Bicentennial, 1 PIAA). And his three alumni sons, Ethan, Jesse and Owen and any other grad can testify that "Ooof Ball Lives!"

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# God has brought us talented, creative folks

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(that would be you!) - needs to know of the treasure we have leading our students each day. God has brought us talented, creative folks who have dedicated their time, talents, and teaching days to this institution and have made it a bastion of quality Christian education. They have developed reputations that draw new people in, school programs which win accolades and equip students, and abilities that inspire young believers to follow in their footsteps. Yes, there are younger folks being hired who are starting their own dynasty – retirement is bound to come



#### Elementary left

Left: Jim Krug (22 yrs) Still the school Four-Square champion, he puts in long hours refurbishing his Glenside house and traveling to Montana and New Jersey to help relatives do likewise. Fifth graders never forget his Walk thru the Old Testament or being a Big Brother or Big Sis.

Right: Margie Tees (21 yrs) Daughter Jenn graduates this Spring as did son Matt back in '04, letting her fully focus on the important things in life: Pre-K'ers pasting leaves on paper flowers, tracing numbers and letters, memorizing Bible verses, and skipping on the playground.



### Middle School left

Left: Betsy Rockey (21 yrs) Still leading the Battle of the Books and teaching prepositions (“the squirrel ran \_\_\_ the tree”), she recently spent time in Japan on a summer fellowship. Husband Jonathan now teaches Latin at North Penn High, daughter Madeleine is a married nurse, and, ironically, daughter Abigail is now a middle school English teacher.

Right: Tim Eimer (21 yrs) A regular writer for educational magazines, he still has students dropping ingeniously wrapped eggs out of windows and leads them on muddy excursions to the pond and creek. Hiking with wife and his two boys, Conor and Torin, is still a favorite pastime.



### Staff and Admin

Left: Marilyn Furcola (31 yrs) With thousands of college acceptances to point to, her new Master’s degree simply confirmed that she always knew how to guide students. Daughter Claudia Stemler now aides at PMCA and Marilyn co-grandmothers those Stemler boys.

Middle: John Davis (20 yrs) Still residing in the “little house,” behind the Dresher campus with wife Lici, he led in the rebirth of the Hillcrest Campus: new auditorium, Avenue of the Arts, transformed gymnasium, and acres of spit-and-polish. He still gives the best hugs ever.

Right: Nancy Stemler (32 yrs) Now in her 7th office, she is still organizing meetings, coordinating visitors, updating databases, and doing what needs to be done. Son Matt teaches PMCA art on the lower floor while grandsons Isaac and Elijah attend classes above.

### Arts and Humanities

Left: Dan Kunkle (31 yrs) The Bible Man still gives Books of the Bible quizzes, spouts the apologetics of Francis Schaeffer, and challenges students to a Deeper Walk with Jesus. 50’s jazz, pop culture, modern art, and classic films are still passions, but so is his 1998 Honda Shadow VT1100!

Middle: Susan Liegel (19 yrs) Following her hubby into a Hillcrest choir position, she has taught Pre-K thru high school music, Spanish, sociology and the music for all 15 PMCA musicals. A mom to ten, including alumna daughter Betsy who now subs when Mom leads her choirs on festival trips.

Right: Will Liegel (19 yrs) A short-term sub position blossomed into long-term English Literature, Theatre, Yearbook, and Writing activities and over 50 Hamel Auditorium stage productions. Five alumni children give him lots of reasons to praise a PMCA education.

Left: Lisa Askey (19 yrs) Miss Morelli taught 2nd grade, married, took a children break, came back as Dresher librarian, then guided three daughters through PMCA. Now the force behind the PMCA Library Media Center, she can call down the hall for assistance from husband David, the school IT Director.

Middle: Carlotta Carradice (23 yrs) Part-time German teaching led to years of full-time service with *Twelfth Night*, English grammar, *A Doll’s House*, and two Honor Societies. Das Gut! Summers have meant guiding 11 PMCA trips to Germany and many visits from Florida granddaughter Victoria.

Right: Tom Sorkness (27 yrs) Coming directly from Boston to Erdenheim, he and PMCA alumna wife Lois will hold the record for “producing alumni” – 8 when all are through! Students will long remember his chapter summaries, Cromwell lectures, and oh-so-dry humor.

“Baa, Baa, Oink, Moo,  
Baa, Oink, Whinny”

“Finding Gold in a Cow Pasture”



Theatre is “academic” at Phil-Mont. Yes, it’s also vocal, visual and physical, but Drama Director Mr. Liegel is eager to use the Hamel Auditorium stage as a place to train and challenge the minds and spirits of his performers who will in turn often challenge those in the theatre seats. There are schools that ring up ticket sales by focusing on audiences who will flock to the latest rock musical or the most hysterical new play, and so students, for all the years they spend in high school, are too often called upon only to make their audiences giggle and smile. Oh, YES, it can all sell tickets, but how profitable is it for those on stage? For those in the audience? Everyone knows the body can’t live on candy, right? But a steady diet of *High School Musical* and *Annie* isn’t healthy either!

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We all grew  
**together**  
& were stretched  
artistically

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That’s why Mr. L looks at a “PMCA Four-Year Theatre Plan.” Yes, you’ll see the air-headed delightful fluff of *The Boyfriend* or last fall’s totally wacky and wildly popular *Pirates of Penzance*. However, you’ll also see full houses at deep dramas such as Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town* or Gibson’s *The Miracle Worker*, challenging

thematic musicals such as *Pippin*, *Oliver*, or *Working*, and adventuresome fantasies that expand the mind, the art department and costume, lighting, and sound people. Our elaborate medieval *Hobbit* and our *Antigone* set in 15th century Zimbabwe demanded research and elaborate training and study for every performer. In Mr. L’s words, “over the years students are at PMCA, I want them to s-t-r-e-t-c-h and have to try classic and contemporary, buffoonery and tragedy, Shakespeare and Neil Simon. I always want our audiences to be thinking, ‘I never considered that aspect of life before.’”

Well, all of that kind of thinking led to the production of the recent PMCA high school play. What could be more challenging than George Orwell’s curriculum classic, *Animal Farm*? Proclaimed by its author as a mere “fairy story,” it creatively allegorizes the rise of communism in Russia, complete with characters who represent the Tsar, Marx, Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin, and other key figures. Studied in almost every middle school in America, *Animal Farm* provided a gripping opportunity to look at the rise of totalitarianism in a way that was both memorable and accurate, precise in its look at 20th Century Russia, but applicable to any historical situation in which one societal class comes to rule brutally over another. Our version was chosen from seven possibilities; it was the National Theatre of England’s production – complete with six songs accompanied live on stage by the actors. Humor and beauty were there in abundance, but it was all in the midst of the sobering realities of man’s inhumanity to man – or in this case, to animals. Senior performer Liz Cronin



Pigs Squealer (Jenn Tees) and Napoleon (Jon Shope) plotting.

(Guard Dog and Hen) caught on quickly. “The play shows what could happen if a government had too much power. It warns everyone to not give up their rights too easily.”

After the silliness of last year’s *It Happens Every Summer* and this year’s *Pirates*, our one worry was whether or not any students would care to be involved in such dire imaginings. Would they share Mr. L’s vision? All day working at school... and then dealing with Orwellian despair and deceit each afternoon? Well, something exciting is happening when almost forty people try out for a drama – eighteen guys and twenty ladies, no less! This from a student pool of only 140 high schoolers! All came with their one-minute monologues and then took astonishing risks when reading against each other from the *Animal Farm* script. Becoming sheep, hens, pigs, horses, goat, donkeys, ravens and cows on the spot (on the hoof?) is no small task. Try to imagine what a pig voice or a horse posture might be – they did! Sadly, we were

not able to cast some eleven very talented students, but those chosen began a true adventure and many of those not chosen became part of a support crew.

At once, everyone began a team-learning process both onstage and off. Onstage we worked on movement, voice, music, and staging as a team, partly developing the finished product through experimentation and improvisation. Students taught the music and designed the score using instruments made from found items, students and dads built and painted the set and worked together to determine special effects and lighting, and all attempted to fully grasp the story and then ‘become’ these animals in the way they moved, sounded, and interacted. Elia Tomer (Mollie) commented on how “It was difficult to create the atmosphere of the play and become animals, but we all grew together and were stretched artistically.” Pretty exciting stuff!

Offstage the *Animal Farm* team was exposed to Background Teaching Seminars to help them better understand the play

and its meaning and ramifications. Each Wednesday at 3 pm from mid-January through February, faculty and guests spoke on a variety of topics, some as fundamental as the literary techniques of the book, the historical details of the rise of communism, and the biography of George Orwell. However, there were also speakers expanding on using vocal dialects from the British Isles, on the history of animal fables throughout world literature, and on the power of propaganda and political art. Senior Amy Bratcher (Narrator) observes how “the play has given me such a great opportunity to open up and develop new skills without worrying what people think. It’s such a supportive environment.” Mr. L took everyone on a You-Tube video journey, looking at some of the astonishing multi-cultural productions in America, Palestine, France, Italy, Scotland, and Korea. Parents, teachers, and the student body were invited - and who wouldn’t be lured by Bible teacher Mr. Kunkle’s title, *Snowball Goes to the Mall: The Hegemony of Marxist Ideology in Culture Studies and a Christian Critique. !!!!*

The production? Everything we could have hoped for with stellar performances from featured performers Jon Shope (Napoleon), Brandon Hassell (Snowball), Elia Tomer (Mollie), Tim Hause (Boxer), Jenn Tees (Squealer), and Casey Kreines (Major). Attentive evening audiences were supplemented by a morning matinee open to students from area schools, witnessing onstage the *Animal Farm* book that they had recently read and studied. They were silenced by a stage transformed into a barnyard alternately pastoral in straw bales, amber, and light and horrifying in flashing red lights, blood, and darkness. Actors were transformed by adapted voices and bodies carried askew, wrapped in astonishing costumes created by Betsy (Liegel) Falk ’00. Drawing upon her two years of New York/Broadway costuming experience, she stitched dozens of fabric headpieces which topped off hand-painted draped garments. Farmers were garish and ghostly in distorted masks till the final reveal when suddenly, “Looking from man to pig and pig to man, there was no difference at all.”



*Animal Farm* was unique and unforgettable, but all of this actually underscores our simple schoolwide desire to have EVERY experience at Phil-Mont be a learning experience. We encourage students to plan a dinner or a theme day or a mission trip, to develop a unified sports team, or to combine their talents and interests in Interact, Improv, or Culture Club. All of this helps students to prepare for a real world which will draw upon their skills and experiences. These PMCA experiences challenge and stretch us all as departments and as a school and, hopefully, this winter trip to the barnyard yielded some nuggets of gold as well. We know that God is King over all of His Creation, so whether it is a stage production, an Honor Society outreach, or a championship team, we must entrust all of our activities, plans, hopes and dreams into His sure Hands and then watch Him bless and use it all. ■■

“Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”

Psalm 121:1

## Bound for the NCAA

Thursday, February 4 was a red letter day for PMCA as the first Lady Falcon signed a letter of intent to play NCAA Division I soccer. Senior Meghan Toohey, PMCA's all-time leader in both goals and assists, received a scholarship from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. When not on the soccer field, Meghan plans to study kinesiology, with an eye toward an eventual career in physical therapy.



Meghan Toohey signs her letter of intent while her parents, Cathy and Joe Toohey, sister Caitlin and nephew Dominic look on.

Meghan began playing soccer as a youngster after being exposed to it for the first time at summer camp. She enjoyed it enough that when she reached age 12 and was eligible for club soccer, she tried out and was accepted as a member of the FC Delco Squad 91/92. By age 14, she was the squad captain and she has continued to work under coach Leighton Walters, participating in both state and regional play-off games during her time with the club.

Meghan entered PMCA as a 9th grader, and has been part of the girls' soccer team throughout her high school career. A talented midfielder, she has captained the PMCA team for two years and has led them to two consecutive PIAA District I Class AA Girls' Finals. At season's end this year, she was named team MVP. Both Coach Walters and PMCA Coach David Askey praise her for her skill, her drive and her ability to raise the level of play of those around her.

It was early in her junior year at PMCA that Meghan made the decision that Michigan would be the school for her, but the official agreement was sealed this February. Joining Meghan as she signed her letter of intent were her family, coaches Walters and Askey, PMCA teammates from both the girls' and boys' squads and various faculty and staff members, as well as a reporter from the Springfield Sun. We congratulate Meghan on her achievement and hope that she will be just the first of many PMCA representatives in this area of intercollegiate athletics.



This summer PMCA will host a wide variety of Sports Camps and Arts and Science camps for all ages.

Visit [www.phil-mont.com](http://www.phil-mont.com) and go to Student Life to see more detailed information and a complete list of camps offered.

Above: Available this summer are 'got camp?' car magnets.



Meghan is surrounded by PMCA Varsity Soccer Teammates and Coach David Askey.

## Fall Sports Wrap-Up

-  The boys varsity soccer team defended their Bicentennial Athletic League Constitution Division Title for the third year in a row.
-  Our girls varsity soccer team advanced to the PIAA District One Finals and finished as the 2009-10 runners up.



Senior Jon Shope claimed first place for the second year in a row at the District One Cross Country Championships held at Lehigh University. Jon then advanced to the PIAA State Championships where he finished 5th in the Commonwealth.

# PMCA Alumna, Candice Nemec, Dances on to College

From the time she was eight years old, Candice Nemec's second family at Christmas time has been The Pennsylvania Ballet. While other children were home learning how to bake Christmas cookies, Candice was learning how to live out of a ballet bag, to get changed quickly in the back of a moving vehicle, and to pin her own hair up in a bun. She performed 14 shows each season at the beautiful Academy of Music with The Pennsylvania Ballet Company in George Balanchine's *The Nutcracker*, and was promoted to professional roles in 2005 in her freshman year at PMCA.

Now a freshman at Adelphi University, Candice not only survived the World Series in New York while wearing her Chase Utley jersey, but was the only freshman chosen to dance in Adelphi's Christmas opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. *Amahl*, by composer Gian Carlo Menotti, was commissioned for television in 1951 and is the most frequently performed opera of all time. A summary from Adelphi reads, "It is a timeless story of the power

of faith and the meaning of love. The one-act opera tells the story of Amahl, a poor crippled boy, who lives with his mother in a village somewhere on the road to Bethlehem. When the Three Kings, following the star in the East, seek shelter for the night, the lives of Amahl and his mother are changed forever." Amahl's mother, since she was poor and had nothing to offer her guests, summoned the peasants to bring whatever they had to offer the Three Kings. Candice had the joy of performing before a sold-out crowd as she played the role of the peasant girl who along with a peasant boy was coaxed into dancing a duet (a pas de deux choreographed by Jessie Niemiec) for the visitors.

In attendance at *Amahl* was world-renowned British composer, Christopher Lyndon-Gee, who is an Associate Professor of Music at Adelphi University. He wrote to Frank Augustyn, Adelphi's Dance Program Director, "I was hugely impressed with the young student who danced." Lyndon-Gee went on to request that Augustyn contact Candice to ask if she would work with him on an upcoming project for Ridotto, a chamber music society on Long Island. Ridotto offers concerts with a touch of theater as an alternative to the traditional concert stage. Christopher Lyndon-Gee is conducting a staged performance of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* for Ridotto this month, and Candice has agreed to be the princess who dances the Tango-Waltz-Ragtime sequence that cements the soldier's falling in love with her.



Candice dances a pas de deux with Sam Householder in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.

Besides dancing at Adelphi, Candice is majoring in nursing and is a member of The Student Nurses Acting for Progress (SNAP), an organization that supports nursing students by dedicating itself to furthering their study of nursing through meetings, special events and conferences, as well as examining issues that nurses face today. Candice also works for the Admissions Office as a tour guide and has been able to host Phil-Mont students on campus tours. ■■

# Alumni News: Class Notes...

**67** Martha (MacDonald) Hunter writes, "I've been a preschool teacher for 30 years. Tried retiring but it didn't take. I've been at a few day cares in the Willow Grove area and am now at a learning center in Roslyn as an infant caretaker. It sure is different than preschool! I do writing and a counseling ministry. We attend Calvary Chapel Philly. Former classmates – get in touch!"

**94** Rebecca (Anderson) Fouse and her husband, Joel, have been blessed this past year with the addition of three new family members. In May, Liya and Betti, ages 14 and 9, came home to them from Ethiopia, then on September 19, 2009, they were once again blessed with the birth of a beautiful baby girl, Halle Evangeline Malet Fouse. Their family now consists of eight children, ages 4 months to 14 years. Seven girls and one boy!

Craig Giandomenico married Autumn McClintock on December 19, 2009. Craig is teaching theology at Merion Mercy Academy. They reside in Philadelphia.

**97** Makoto Asano has been approved to become pastor of Keyakidor Christ (Evangelical Free) Church in Saitama, Japan in April. He has completed his seminary training at Tokyo Christ Seminary.

On September 25, 2009 a daughter, Jordan Aaliyah, was born to Kamilah (Roundtree) Williams and her husband, Jeremy.

**99** Stephen Wilson married Michelle Nace on September 19, 2009. They are living in Telford, PA.

**01** Lynn Gunning married Brian Lawlor on October 10, 2009. They reside in Philadelphia.

**05** Austin Laik was born to Lydia (Medley) Evans and her husband, Frank, on September 8, 2009.

## The Race is On!

PMCA's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Race for Education is Friday, April 23

Students, parents, faculty, staff and administration join together for a day of outdoor fun, fellowship and fundraising.

Participants raise funds by asking sponsors to make a tax-deductible contribution based on the number of laps completed on a 1/4 mile track or through a flat donation.

Thousands of yellow mailers are on their way to families and friends of PMCA students. Please lend your support to the Race and the quality Christian education it helps to finance.

## Pray for PMCA

*For our students, teachers and staff* as they adjust schedules disrupted by snow  
*For the Administration* seeking to guide the school in ways glorifying to God  
*For our current school families* as they prioritize Christian education for their children  
*For parents in the community* who are considering Christian education  
*For our Board of Trustees* as they plan for the future of PMCA  
*For our upcoming Race for Education*  
*For Gracepoint Church* as they meet at the school for worship on Sundays  
*For God's faithful and ongoing provision of all of our needs*



# Calendar of Events

## March

**26**  
Elementary Spring Program, 7:00 pm  
Grades 1, 3, 5

**31**  
No School – Easter Break

## April

**1-5**  
No School – Easter Break

**8**  
NHS Induction

**23**  
RACE FOR EDUCATION

**30**  
Half Day of School – Jr./Sr. Banquet

## May

**20-22**  
Fine Arts Festival  
20 – MS Spring Concert, 7:30 pm  
21 – HS Spring Concert, 7:30 pm  
22 – Ensembles, Solos, Drama

**21**  
Elementary Field Day

**31**  
No School – Memorial Day

For more *information* about  
PMCA please visit our website at:  
[www.phil-mont.com](http://www.phil-mont.com)

## June

**2-4**  
Senior Exams

**3**  
Middle School Field Trip Day

**4-9**  
Final Exams, Grades 9-11

**7-9**  
Senior Class Trip

**10**  
Last Day/Half Day for Elementary  
and Middle School

**11**  
Graduation – New Covenant  
Church of Philadelphia, 7:00 pm

## We'd love to hear from you!

Please take a moment to let us know about important happenings in your life. Have you moved? Changed jobs? Gotten married? Had children? If you want, we can include this information in the next Signet. Please email it to [Nstemler@phil-mont.com](mailto:Nstemler@phil-mont.com)

## A Word about Addresses

A number of people have noticed and commented that in recent mailings we have used 'to our friends at' rather than specific names in the addresses. This practice is one which we hope will be temporary, but which has been necessitated by a change in all school software. The new

system categorizes data differently, and information from our old system did not transfer well into the new system, especially in the areas of alumni, alumni parents and donors. Because of this, thousands of constituent records need to be updated manually before we can once

again draw up an accurate list of addresses. This is something that we are working hard to achieve as soon as possible. We thank you for your patience as we complete this process; it is important to us that you do remain 'our friends'.

**Philadelphia-Montgomery  
Christian Academy**  
35 Hillcrest Avenue  
Erdenheim, PA 19038-8281

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WILLOW GROVE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 16

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

# THE SIGNET



**Board President**  
Michael Major, Sr.

**Head of School**  
Donald B. Beebe

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[www.phil-mont.com/donations.php](http://www.phil-mont.com/donations.php).