

THE SIGNET



SPRING 2014 | VOLUME 14 | ISSUE 1

From the Head of School

Reimagining Education Part 2

The work of our Board's **Future of Education Task Force** continues as we seek to reimagine just what schooling should be in this day of rapid change. We have been doing lots of reading, learning, consulting, and conducting focus group-type meetings that have included faculty members, special board meetings, and coming soon, parent meetings. It is a bit mind-boggling to try to conceive of a tomorrow which we cannot clearly see rather than yesterday which we can see and remember. Think for a few minutes: do you recall moving from using a slide rule to using an expensive Texas Instruments calculator (\$900 in 1973)? How about moving from computer punch cards to desktop computers and then to laptops and even to smartphones that combine so many tools through which we now access and experience learning? Remember getting most of our news from the daily newspaper or evening newscast compared to now

staying up-to-date 24/7 through news alerts on our smartphones or tablets? We have seen some significant paradigm shifts, haven't we? Now, imagine the way we do education staying the same for a century!

The basic framework for presenting education has remained the same. The segmenting of subjects, the industrial model of grouping everyone with the same birth year together in the same class, the 40–50 minute periods of allotted time to convey a certain amount of material, etc. Our current initiative has given us freedom to inquire into and investigate some interesting data-driven propositions. While some of those propositions can excite us, some can create apprehension as well. In order to remain focused on the task, we remind ourselves to keep the bigger picture in mind by thinking of our current considerations within the following three categories:

How do new strategies fit with our commitment to Mission and Vision?

Our stated mission is to provide excellent academic education from a consistent Christian

world-and-life view for the children in Christian families. We desire to do that by taking a biblical, researched, and imaginative view of how learning at PMCA could be enhanced so as to provide our graduates with the skills and maturity needed for a world that is increasingly technological, global, and changing.

Furthermore, in order to train ambassadors and disciples of Christ who are thoughtful, responsible, and biblically literate stewards of God's gifts and callings, we believe it appropriate to utilize all reasonable and God-glorifying approaches, methods, and technologies in order to create the best possible learning environment for our students. Our work will help determine just what those approaches are and how might we test them.

What content should we be including in our instructional programming?

We hope to determine how to enhance our efforts by researching, surveying, and conversing with our stakeholders, parents, students, faculty, administrators, and board regarding the needs, goals, and aspirations for our children



The completed *Immersed in the Psalms* artwork as it is expected to appear when installed. See the related story on page 8.

as they assume various callings and career paths. Doing so will assist us in establishing fluencies, competencies, and skills that need to be addressed in this changing culture. We desire an educational program that is anticipating the requirements of both higher education and the job market in the next 5–10–20 years. Our program should help to create and imagine a kingdom-centered future from a cascading wave of data. We want our graduates to be those who communicate creatively and effectively, and who bring elements of imaginative design to bear on solving life's most difficult problems while also manifesting the glory of God through the world in which we are called to serve.

We desire to provide the best learning platforms for each student, which will likely include a form of blended learning (traditional teaching methods and technologically enhanced innovative methods of teaching), so that each student has access to a more customized/personalized

style and approach to learning that best fits his or her abilities and needs.

What reconfigurations of instructional delivery, class/course configurations, tools and assessments might enhance the process of education?

Certainly one of our most frequently identified strengths over these 70 years centers on the mentoring and discipling commitments and relationships engaged in by godly faculty members who serve out of a conviction of calling with demonstrated competence. We desire to facilitate increases in how those mentoring relationships are developed. As we engage alumni from the seven decades of our humble history we are continually amazed at questions and comments like: "Is Mr. Kunkle still there? He helped me develop an apologetic." "How about Mr. Bierema? He helped me see God's hand through both the simplicity and complexities of mathematics." "Mr. Liegel showed

me how worldview is expressed through our engagement with the creative arts." We may not be able to bottle those energies or those impacts but we might certainly look to enhance how those energies and impacts will assist in preparing our Phil-Mont grads with that kingdom vision.

We are moving ahead prayerfully, graciously, and sensitively. We continue to seek out the input of the students, parents, faculty, and staff. We are seeking to build a consensus as to where we need to go and how we will get there. We continue to request your prayerful support and confidence in our efforts at thinking strategically as a board. We desire to honor our God with the great opportunity still granted us through His grace each day as we continue to be the kind of school that not only honors Him today but helps produce those who will serve Him with distinction tomorrow.

*Donald Beebe, Head of School
Louis Pronnicki, Board President*

Reading Scripture Well

We Christians affirm the primacy of Scripture, but how is it presented in our churches, chapels, and homes? Do our practices imply that the Bible passage is just a prelude to the sermon? Something to be mumbled in unison? Jeff Barker will convince us of the importance of reading Scripture well and will teach participants how to engage hearts and minds with the Word of God. Join the Phil-Mont community in learning how to become excellent presenters of Scripture.

2014

March 20 { 7:00 PM }

LOCATION

Phil-Mont Hamel
Auditorium

*Bring your friends!
Invite your pastor and worship leaders!*



Yearbook!

Will Liegel

When you want a phone number, just Google the name or call the nice-lady recording at directory assistance. If you want info on Civil War battles or the Amendments to the Constitution, just Google it or call on Mr. Sorkness. But if you want to check on who was captain of the 1974 basketball team, remember the name of the girl who sat next to you in 3rd period math class, or recall who had the best smile in your grade, the great and glorious Google isn't going to cut it. There's nowhere else to go but the school yearbook.

Phil-Mont just celebrated its 70th anniversary and over and over folks came to the yearbook room to pick up a *Philotheon* from days gone by. When Mr. MacQueen retired last spring, yearbooks provided the great age-span of photos to go with his send-off. As advisor, I love pulling out old books and sharing alumni pics of Mr. Stemler in his flowing mane of red hair or Mrs. Sorkness when she was just a child herself and not the mom of eight. It's fun to view Messers Struck, Bierema, and Bacon when they were strapping young men and to remember that Mr. Kunkle used to teach middle school.

To the best of our knowledge the word "philotheon" builds on philios, the Greek word for brotherly love, and bears the shading of "devotion." Actually, there is an Orthodox convent high in the Greek mountains named Philotheon, a place of peace and meditation with the theme verse of "Create in me a clean heart, O, God." (Psalm 51) That would all fit well with what goes on in Room 109 each day. There is much devotion involved in our yearbook production. Many hours spent, earnest copy produced, prayer to start classes, staffers helping one another get through interviews, photo shoots, and lay-out issues. The staff becomes a family, trying to view who Phil-Mont is this year and to freeze that for the future.

Yearbooks are a treasure trove of memories, all the more so at a school the size of Phil-Mont, where every grad is accented in a big way and everyone knows everyone. Facebook is fine, but those pictures will be changed and forgotten.

Let's face it—how many times have those of us long since graduated drifted back to the dusty tomes that contain our high school years? The younger, stronger, generally slimmer us grins back from the pages and we are transported. It's true—Yearbooks are forever!

At Phil-Mont, however, there's lots more to the yearbook than memories. Here, it is an academic class with grades, assignments, and lots to learn. Ten upperclassmen are selected each year and begin choosing a theme and then spreading it out over the proposed book.

Many reading this might have been on their school's yearbook team way-back-when, but my, my, my, have times changed! Just a decade ago people were cutting out black squares to glue onto grid papers, using the "cropper" to mark the size and adjustments to photos, running to photo stores or darkrooms to develop pictures, most of which were awful and could never be used. It was a long process with lots of labor-intensive hours filled with pizza, rubber cement, and frayed nerves. Now Phil-Mont is totally tech!

Yearbook preparation has become great training in desktop publishing. Thanks to the folks at Balfour-Jostens Publishing, everything is done on-line with elaborate programs developed just for yearbooks. Importing pictures, adjusting templates, editing copy, doing advanced cutouts, croppings, transparencies, and colorations are all just a keystroke away. Full color from start to finish makes our books look more like glossy

newsstand magazines than the shaky black-and-whites of years past. More than one of our staffers has gone on from PMCA to major in graphic arts, publishing, or advertising based upon their time in the *Philotheon* pages. A number have helped to pay for college by editing college books based upon their training here.

So come mid-March, yet another edition of the *Philotheon* will go to print, with Senior Editor Evan Steiger at the helm. It's sure to be another winner with a powerful theme, great pics, and memorable layouts. Students will have learned much, will have grown as a team, and will have truly tried to represent this Phil-Mont school year and all that it contained. The *Philotheon* will be at press in far away Texas and the memories of the 2013–14 school year will once again be beautifully and safely ensconced for future generations. Then our staffers will turn to the publication of *The Vanguard*, our campus literary arts journal—but that's a whole other story...



The *Philotheon* staff at work.

O, Canada! Bringing a Classic to Life

The Lucy Maud Montgomery classic, *Anne of Green Gables* comes to Hamel Auditorium!

Diversity is a hallmark of Phil-Mont. Students from a variety of churches, towns, and backgrounds. Faculty from widely differing states, schools, and experiences. Our Phil-Mont theatre seasons follow suit. We've avoided that, "Yawn, here comes another production just like the last one," by stretching in every way we can to be new and unique, creative and surprising. Musicals have taken us from the Broadway classics (*Oliver*, *Music Man*, *Oklahoma*, *Fiddler*) to the brand new award-winners (*Millie*, *Pippin*, *Working*, *Aida*). The winter play has done likewise: *1984* to *Stage Door* to *Our Town* to *Robin Hood* to *The Hobbit* and on and on.

That's why our end-of-year-theatre party is so anticipated. Along with games, food, and tears for senior good-byes (we are a sentimental gang!), we formally announce the next year's season—our musical, our play, and our spring festival theme. This past June, the promise of *Thoroughly Modern Millie* received applause,

but *Anne of Green Gables* was acclaimed and cheered! It seems that every Phil-Mont girl already had it on her best-books list and the guys were excited about great character roles and a Canadian accent opportunity.

Director Will Liegel soon discovered the depth of Anne-mania. Katie Trego, our middle school social studies teacher, gushed to him one morning. "I love *Anne of Green Gables*. I read the series over and over again. It was an obsession with me when I was a little girl. I didn't just love the stories, I really wanted to BE Anne Shirley!" Miss Sutliff, our beloved 4th grade teacher extraordinaire, lovingly offered to portray Anne for us, though admitting that she was more a Marilla by type. Mrs. Rockey was elated to see us doing a middle school classic, Mrs. Liegel could already do a number of the lines, and right away three senior guys stepped forward volunteering to perform key roles— they felt auditions weren't necessary. Like so

many others, these folks could not wait till see what we would do with this great tale

There's a lot to work with. Lucy Montgomery spins an unforgettable tale of a young orphan who comes to live with Matthew and Marilla Cuthbert, an elderly brother and sister on Canada's Prince Edward Island. Anne is a nonstop talker, honest to a fault, too bright for her own good, and blessed/cursed with flaming hair, a badge of dishonor and a cause for derision. In the course of the story, Anne grows from an impetuous preteen into an accomplished young woman, along the way touching every emotion known to man. She tussles with town gossip Rachel Lynde, becomes the bosom friend of beautiful Diana Barry, and slams a slate off the head of rude-but-brilliant Gilbert Blythe. In addition, another twenty-five students, teachers, ministers, and neighbors also become a part of her Anne's life and ours.



No wonder that Montgomery was not able to stop at just *Green Gables* but went on to take us to *Anne of Windy Poplars*, *Ingleside*, *Avonlea* and eight other sequels. *Anne of Green Gables* has sold 50 million copies and has been translated into 36 languages. In Japan it has been on their National School Curriculum listings since 1952. Japanese couples regularly travel to the Montgomery/Anne Estate on Prince Edward Island for their weddings and often the girls have braided, red hair! The first film version—silent!—was made in 1919 and since then there have been numerous films, musical, plays, animated and live TV series, and the 1986 film made a young Megan Follows an international star.

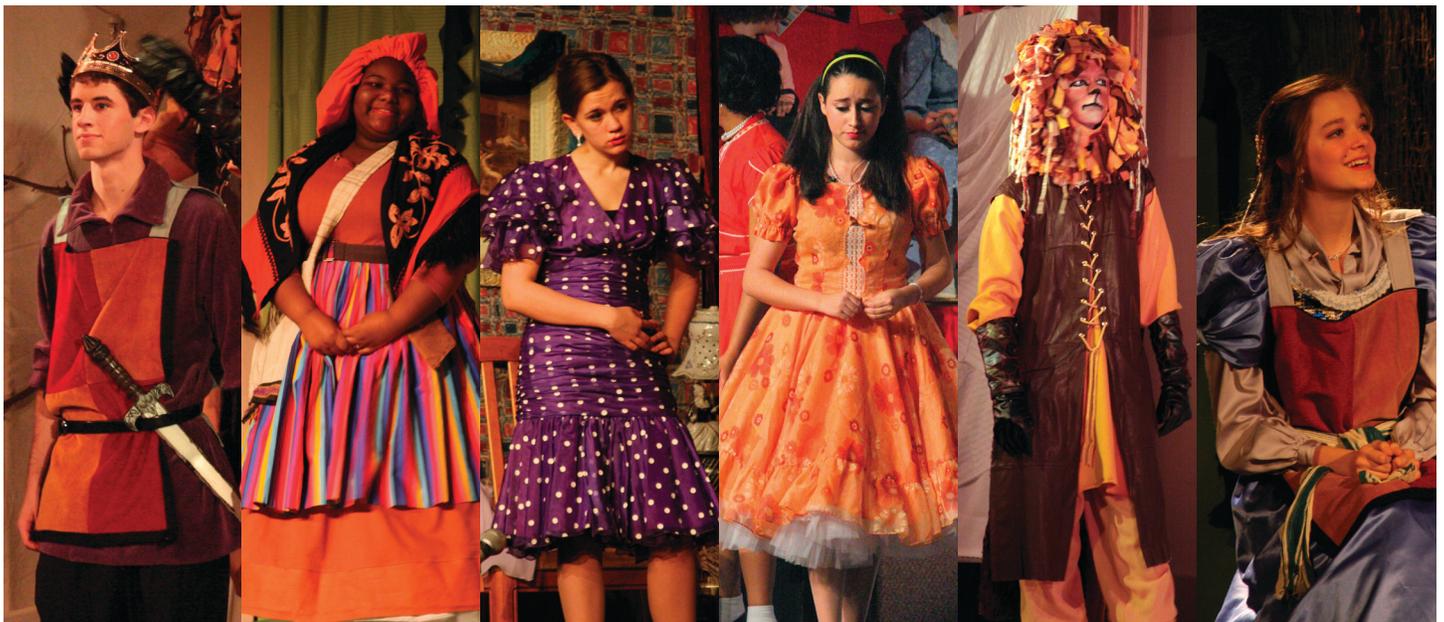
Not surprisingly, almost forty Phil-Mont high schoolers tried out for the twenty-four coveted *Anne* roles and the production sparkled from the very first rehearsal. Previously featured senior performers claimed many major roles: Faith Modricker as Rachel Lynde, Sean Hawkins

as Matthew, Rachel DiBenedetto as Aunt Josephine, and Tommy Leahy as Gilbert Blythe. However, the two primary roles were claimed by young ladies who stepped from smaller parts into the spotlight: Senior Sydney Holts will be bringing Marilla Cuthbert to life while raven-haired Junior Charlotte Kreines will be our Anne Shirley.

Our initial fear was that this article would reach you after the actual production dates which were earlier than in prior years. Happily, however, God had other plans. After many snow days and clashes with winter sports programs, our performance dates were changed. Please join us on March 6-8 at 7:30 pm or March 8 at 2:00 pm. Reserved seat tickets are available at the school office. Following soon on the heels of this show will be our elementary musical, our Spring Festival, and our Spring concerts—lots of opportunities to visit Erdenheim and enjoy the talents that God has nestled

here. And due to piles of winter snow you still may have the opportunity to run over to Hillcrest for a delightful evening with a girl named Anne.

Our cast members have a wealth of experience behind them. Here are some of the leads from Anne as they appeared in previous Phil-Mont stage productions. From left, Peter Sorkness (Moody Spurgeon MacPherson) in *Oklahoma*, Sydney Holts (Marilla Cuthbert) in *The Nifty Fifties*, Faith Modricker (Rachel Lynde) in *Aida*, Ian Stevens (Mr. Sadler/Charlie Sloane) and Milana Ricketts (Josie Pye) in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, Lauren Markowitz (Diana Barry) in *Stage Door*, Sean Hawkins (Matthew Cuthbert) in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, Doris Hamilton (Miss Rogerson/Mrs. Allan) and in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, Rachel DiBenedetto (Aunt Josephine) in *Stage Door*, Charlotte Kreines (Anne Shirley) in *The Nifty Fifties*, Tommy Leahy (Gilbert Blythe) in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and Lizzy Cole (Mrs. Barry) in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*.



Re-Generation

Marilyn Furcola

This fall Phil-Mont welcomed Liana and Gabriel Masso into the middle school family, joining their cousin Viktor McCloy who is a junior. Liana and Gabriel are the children of Michael and Linda Masso, who were in the United States on furlough for a few months from their work as missionaries through the African Inland Mission. We always love to add new members to the school family and this particular addition was especially meaningful as we continue to celebrate the school's 70th Anniversary. The story of the Masso family, past and present, is a fascinating one.

Let us go back to 1959. Jon Masso was a member of the first graduating class of Phil-Mont Christian Academy as well as the valedictorian. He remembers, "Miss Johanna Timmer was the principal. Interacting with her was an unforgettable and life-changing experience in itself. She was quite an amazing woman." He goes on to say, "I think the thing that had the most profound influence on me was that at Phil-Mont I had my first exposure to 'reformed' doctrine, emphasizing the sovereignty of God in all areas of life and seeing that the work we do on a daily basis is God's work. Phil-Mont at the time was significantly influenced by its proximity to Westminster Seminary. It affected my view of Christian education as well, and led to all of our four children going through Christian school, not as an escape from the world, but because we see all of God's creation in all areas of life as God's work. This applies to the sciences. It was through the influence of one of the Phil-Mont teachers, Mr. Zuidema, that I developed an interest in science and attended Drexel University to study physics and then later went to Colorado State University for a PhD." Jon Masso is an inventor as well as physicist. He was employed at American Optical for many years and also worked on inventions in the field of camera optics and military goggles. He invented the glare-resistant coating found on many eyeglasses.

Jon Masso and his family were active in supporting missions; after her children were grown, Jon's mother became a missionary in Peru. Jon met his wife Phyllis at an Urbana Missions Conference. They felt the call to go into the

The Michael Masso Family



mission field but it wasn't until 1998 that the Lord led them to Kenya. Their four children went on numerous mission trips as they were growing up. One daughter, Christi, served in Kenya for seven years and son Michael and his family have been missionaries for years in different areas of Africa. For the last fifteen years, Jon and Phyllis have been working in Kenya. He teaches at Daystar University, a Christian university, as well as doing some administrative work there. She started working as a librarian but quickly saw a need and developed a ministry for street children. Out of this ministry, a home for boys was born in which Jon and Phyllis continue to be very active.

Jon's son Michael went to Drexel where he studied civil engineering and international development with the idea of bringing help to other countries in areas such as digging wells, providing solar power and enhancing agriculture. His aim in such studies was to bring water to countries that needed it and to offer practical care for the poor in other countries. After working to provide low cost housing to neighborhoods in North Philly, Michael joined World Harvest in 1994 because there was a need for a water engineer in Uganda. He and his new bride signed on to go to Uganda for 2 years, working on village water supply. They ended up staying for 13 years! More recently they have been serving in South Sudan.

Michael Masso believes that supplying water is only part of his ministry. People need to be trained. They need to be introduced to the Gospel and helped to grow in the faith. So he also taught in a school, disciplined new believers, and helped in Bible translation. With Jesus at the center of all they did, he and his team worked to oversee the health, Christian education, water supply and training of the local

population, teaching community development in the South Sudan. While he was doing this, his wife Karen was learning about nutrition, and developed a program to breed dairy goats. The program started when she took care of a baby whose mother had died. Then next thing she knew there were dozens of babies in need of milk and care. The program

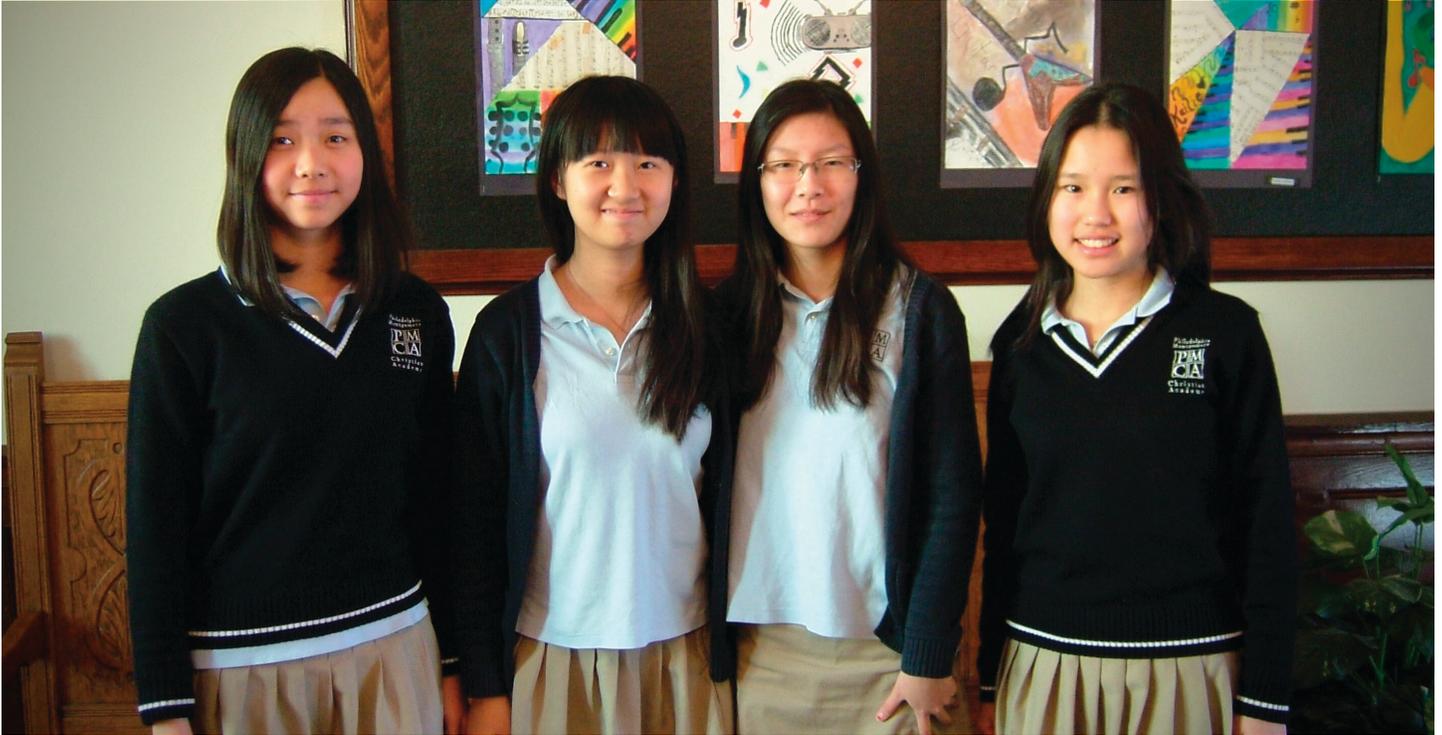
became responsible for giving milk goats to families as part of total care for the community.

The Masso family left Phil-Mont at the end of the first semester to go to their next area of service in Kenya, where Michael will be developing a bachelor degree major in community development at Moffat Bible College. The children will be attending Rift Valley Academy where they will reunite with their older sister. They were happy to have had the experience of attending Phil-Mont and getting involved in the extracurricular activities. Since they had been homeschooled for many years, it was a chance to experience day-to-day life in a school.

The story of the Masso family brings to mind the verse from Psalm 145:4, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Their story connects the generations together as they have done the work of missions both here and abroad, as they hold strong to their commitment to Christian education, as they spread the Word sharing God's gift of love and salvation through scripture as well as through practical means. It has been a joy and privilege to have played a part in the lives of this wonderful family, then and now.

Jon and Phyllis Masso





From left, Yang Yu (Amy) Zou, YuFei (Emma) Huang, Yaoyue (Tino) Du and Qihui (Caroline) Wu.

Chinese Chatter

Debra Shope

“There is no harm in repeating a good thing” according to Plato. While we might question the theology or even the practicality of that statement, when it comes to inviting Chinese students into the Phil-Mont community, it appears to be quite true. In the fall of 2012, Phil-Mont welcomed our first group of students from China. Realizing this was indeed a ‘good thing,’ we have been excited to have four new Chinese students with us this year. Yaoyue ‘Tino’ Du, YuFei ‘Emma’ Huang, Qihui ‘Caroline’ Wu, and Yangyue ‘Amy’ Zou are a group of lovely young women who have quickly become a part of the Phil-Mont family.

Benefitting from wisdom gained by our Phil-Mont staff and their compatriot counterparts from last year, these ladies have had an enhanced transition experience. This year we have added or refined several offerings such as an August language and cultural immersion program, ESL and Introduction to Christianity classes. Arriving two weeks before other international students, the ‘fearless four’ along with a couple of returning Chinese students delved deep into the process of language learning for six hours most days. Toward the close of this

time, they were given an introduction to their new surroundings with trips to places like the Franklin Institute and the Jersey shore.

As a group, our Chinese cohort shows some striking similarities to their American contemporaries. They love snow days and spending time with friends, and are less than excited about the uniforms. They see some classes as harder than others. In contrast to their school in China, they see the teachers at Phil-Mont as caring about their students and wanting them to succeed.

They are excited to have more Chinese students come to Phil-Mont. When asked what they would tell new students, the premium advice echoed by all the students is to “Learn English!” Gary Zhang tells what it is like as a newcomer without the ability to communicate well. “Other kids will talk or tell a joke and you don’t understand what they are saying. It is hard to get to know people that way.” The other common thread among the group is a love of Chinese food! They are looking forward to *International Day* to bring Chinese cuisine to share with their American teachers and friends.

Joining in school activities is a trademark of this crew. Peter Wang, Caroline Wu, Phoebe Wang, and Michelle Chen were all in the musical last fall. Our girls’ tennis team was a beautiful cultural mix with six Chinese girls joining representatives of several other cultures. A number of Chinese students are in the Chess club, Emily Meng worked with the visiting artist, while others are involved in choir, band and a variety of sports and other endeavors. We have even seen the beginnings of a Chinese club to teach others the language, and there is some enthusiasm for ping pong making an appearance at some point.

Imagine doing all of this in a language that is not their own, in a country that is not their home. Or at least, not yet. These Chinese students are learning and demonstrating, by word and example, how to be at home when you are a pilgrim in the land, how to embrace one culture without losing your own. Whether it is in sports, drama, music, art, or even the beginnings of a Chinese club, it is a blessing to see our two ‘countries’ blending together. By God’s grace, they have truly become a part of Phil-Mont, and Phil-Mont has become a part of them.

Immersed in the Psalms Update

Elizabeth Rockey + Matthew Stemler

Phil-Mont has received a Worship Renewal Grant from the Calvin Institute of Worship, Grand Rapids, Michigan, with funds provided by the Lilly Endowment, Inc. During the school year, the entire school community has been exploring the breadth and depth of the Psalms. Student chapels have been using *vertical habits* to focus our study of the Psalms. Teachers and interested parents are part of monthly Psalm-related studies that started in October. Other aspects of the program have come to fruition more recently.

The worship renewal grant included the incorporation of visual elements, so that artwork can play a role in enhancing our worship. Although specifics were not stated, the excitement of anticipating our first **artist in residence** at Phil-Mont led us to understand on some level that something major would be created. The artist chosen to collaborate with the students, Bonnie Whitfield, was one who has experience with residencies through the Mural Arts Program of Philadelphia and is a Delphi teaching artist resident for the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

When Bonnie found out the grant comes from Calvin College, she mentioned that she had attended Calvin for a year before moving on to gain an arts degree at The University of Georgia and later a MFA in Printmaking from Pratt Institute. Bonnie specializes in printmaking and is a conceptual artist and designer. Her studio is located at the *Olivet Church Studios* in Fairmount.

When she arrived at Phil-Mont in January, Bonnie immediately connected the young artists

to the theme of psalms and a process of working with text and layers of paint. On the first work day, a team of middle and high school students visited the Hamel Auditorium in order to gain a sense of its atmosphere and considered how to weave it into the design possibilities of the project.

A design of geometric shapes with an overlay of text was decided upon. These geometric shapes became the focus of activity through painting, drawing and printing for the next couple of sessions. The students worked and reworked the surface of each piece into the text and color theme while allowing a personal touch by each artist.

Although the weather was troublesome throughout the visits and even foiled an attempt to have the students work in the Olivet Church Studios, the project continued to move ahead. Students chose a Psalm-related phrase and the pieces were organized and applied to the canvas. The February *Winter Gala* deadline had kids coming in during lunch and study hall to put final touches on the work. Nothing motivates like the enjoyment of creativity and a hard deadline. The finished piece is pictured on page one.

Thanks to the grant, a partial subsidy was given to five high school students involved in chapel leadership to attend the **Calvin Symposium on Worship** from January 30 through February 1. With over 1500 diverse attendees from around the world, this conference challenged our students and inspired them to lead Phil-Mont in chapel worship beyond our grant year.

The final aspect of the Worship Renewal Grant includes funding **student workshops and a community-wide seminar** on presenting Scripture well. Professor Jeff Barker—dramatist, worship leader, and professor at Northwestern College in Iowa—will be our visiting expert March 20–22. Besides working with our students, Mr. Barker will hold an evening seminar for the larger community. Mark Thursday, March 20 on your calendar now. This practical workshop will inspire you to improve how you present the Bible. Included will be advice, video clips, and workshop time. This opportunity should interest older students, parents, worship leaders, pastors, and all who read Scripture aloud in public worship. It's a free event for the whole Phil-Mont community. Tell your friends!

Pieces of the project are laid out and fit together at Bonnie's studio.



Bonnie Whitfield



Phil-Mont students enjoy the snow in Michigan at the Calvin Worship Symposium. From left, Natalie Lozowski, Tess DeVos, Katie Guerra and Ian Stevens, and behind, Andrew Krpata.



Students work with watercolors

Alumni News: Class Notes

91

James Petty has been appointed Vice President of the Mid-South Region (South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama) of ACTS Retirement-Life Communities.

97

Caleb Aaron was born to **Dr. Traci (Williams-Riles) Trice** and her husband, Shawn, on November 13, 2013. Traci is practicing at Thomas Jefferson Hospital Family Medicine. They are living in East Falls.



Caleb Aaron Trice

99

Abigail Grace was born to **Jonathan Morris** and his wife, Beth, on November 7, 2013.

00

Jackson Timothy was born to **Kailyn (Smith) Lynch** and her husband, Dan, on January 11, 2014.

02

Jacob David was born to **Laura (Askey) Mack** and her husband, James, on November 4, 2013.

Isla Catherine was born to **Ethan and Sarah (Hause '03) Struck** on January 13, 2014.

Thomas Paul Rose was born to **Kristiana (Sorkness) Rose** and her husband, Omar, on February 13, 2014.

04

Anna Joy was born to **Alex Kranjec** and his wife, Jaclyn, on July 21, 2013 (which also happens to be Alex's birthday). Alex works at Calvary Church (Wyncote) as the Worship and Media Pastor and lives in Jenkintown.



Madison Elizabeth Tees

Madison Elizabeth was born to **Matthew Tees** and his wife, Emma, on June 12, 2013. Matt serves as Executive Director and Emma serves as Program Director at Camp DeWolfe in Wading River, Long Island, NY.

05

Colin Baggs graduated from Captain School recently at Ft. Benning and is on the Commandant's List—top 20% of the class. His new posting is at Ft. Stewart, GA.

07

Lieutenant **Nathaniel Bacon** is a Combat Systems Officer in the US Air Force. He recently completed his qualification as an aircrew member on the U-28A at Hurlburt Field in Florida and is currently stationed at Cannon AFB in New Mexico where he is assigned to the 318th Special Operations Squadron.

08

Arel Avellino was married to Sheila Spann on October 25, 2013.

Art Teacher as Artist

In late January, while his students were working on a Psalm-related art project with artist in residence Bonnie Whitfield, Phil-Mont's high school art teacher Matthew Stemler ('89) traveled to Waynesburg University in western PA where he was the featured artist in an exhibition at the Benedum Fine Arts Gallery. In addition to a number of pieces of two-dimensional art, Matt set up an installation, the first of its kind to be displayed on the university campus.

An installation is a type of sculpture in which artists create an environment that allows the viewer to interact. Matthew's installation, entitled *A Skittish Crossing*, demonstrates his interest in combining engineered structures and delicate effects to create contemplative spaces. Thematic connections to previous works include an emphasis on textures, mechanical components, and an array of hanging pieces that establish a type of plane. In *A Skittish Crossing*, the curved plane establishes a relationship between the two sides, an in and an out. The piece pulls conceptually from scientific theories on the behavior of energy and weaves it to the tentative journey of foraging fauna. The nearly-completed installation can be seen in the photo.



Email Addresses Wanted!

In an effort to keep in touch more effectively with all of our constituents, we are expanding our email database. If you have an email account that you check fairly regularly, please send your current address to Nancy Stemler at NStemler@phil-mont.com.

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 Nancy Stemler.

Parents: If you are receiving this publication on behalf of a son or daughter who no longer lives in your home, please contact Nancy Stemler with a current mailing address.

70th ANNIVERSARY FIGURES

\$70,000

Annual Fund Goal

\$22,619

Amount Needed for Goal

132

Contributors

35

Businesses Contributed to Silent Auction

20

Bricks Sold

Web Address to Give a Brick

www.phil-mont.com/wp/support/donate/paving-way/

Steinway Donation

Last fall, Phil-Mont was the recipient of a 1928 Steinway & Sons grand piano, a much-needed replacement for the instrument in the Hamel Auditorium. Mrs. Katherine Shope, grandmother of three Phil-Mont alumni and mother-in-law of our Learning Center teacher Mrs. Debbie Shope, made this generous gift. The piano already has been used in chapels, in all three of our Christmas concerts, and at the Winter Gala. Phil-Mont's students and music department are grateful for the way this instrument enhances worship and musical performances.



Miss Keane makes use of the new piano with a third grade music class.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014

MARCH

20-22

Jeff Barker Worship Seminars

21 { 7:00 PM }

Winter Sports Awards

27 { 7:00 PM }

Elementary Spring Program [Grades 1, 3, 5]

APRIL

2 { 7:30 PM }

NHS Induction

11

No School – Jr./Sr. Banquet

16-21

No School – Easter Break

25

Race for Education

MAY

1 { 7:00 PM }

Fine Arts Festival: Visual Arts Opening and Jazz Night

8 { 7:00 PM }

Fine Arts Festival: Vocal Concert

12

Senior-Board Luncheon

15 { 7:00 PM }

Fine Arts Festival: Band Concert

17

Fine Arts Festival: Drama, Musical Extravaganza, Individual & Ensemble Performances

23

Phil-Mont Service Day

26

No School – Memorial Day

30 { 7:00 PM }

Spring Sports Awards

JUNE

6

Elementary Field Day

12

Last Day/Half Day for Elementary and Middle School

13 { 8:00 AM }

Graduation Breakfast – Calvary PCA, Willow Grove

{ 7:00 PM }

Graduation – Calvary PCA, Willow Grove

Pray for Phil-Mont

For our students, faculty and staff

that they would work and learn to God's glory

For the Administration

that they would be wise leaders and decision-makers

For Mrs. Furcola

as she guides our senior class through the college application process

For current school families

that they would remain dedicated to the mission of PMCA

For the Board of Trustees

as they seek to guide the school according to godly principles

For the celebration of the school's 70th Anniversary

that fund-raising goals will be met

For prospective parents and students

as they attend Open House Tours and consider a PMCA education.

For the Lord's ongoing blessings and provision for the work at PMCA

For more information about PMCA please visit our website at:
www.phil-mont.com



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