



PALADIN PROUD

December 2023

The Paladin Proud newsletter celebrates God's goodness within the Providence Classical School community.



High School Cross Country Teams TAPPS State Champions!

Congratulations to our High School Men's and Women's Cross Country teams who are BOTH the 2023 TAPPS 2A State Champions! This marks the fourth year in a row that our men are state champions and the third year for the women! The Paladin Men had a massive win with six of our athletes medaling in the Top 10 of their 5K race, earning the designation of TAPPS First Team All State: ***Steven Wimberly** 3rd, ***Henry Stevens** 4th, ***Mark Williamson** 6th, ***Luke Zuniga** 7th, **Kaeden Beno** 8th, and **Elijah Zuniga** 9th place. **Luke Williamson** rounded out the team in 30th place. The Lady Paladins also seized a clear victory in the 2-mile race with First Team All-Staters **Berkeley Scott** 2nd, **Savannah Goodwin** 3rd, **Isabelle Eppers** 6th, and **Kennedy Lynch** 7th. All of our remaining women's team members finished in the Top 20: ***Breanne Ohmes** 11th, **Hannah**

Mann 16th, and **Susanna Brink** 18th. Special congratulations to seniors Mark Williamson and Luke Zuniga who were State Champions all four years of high school! Thank you to Coach Jones, Coach Zuniga, and all our parent and staff volunteers for investing in these student-athletes. Way to go Paladins!

**These Paladins also earned TAPPS Academic All-State, awarded to juniors and seniors who placed in the Top 15 at State and have a cumulative average of 90 or above.*



Middle School Cross Country HAPS District Meet

The PCS Middle School Cross Country teams had a phenomenal showing at the HAPS District Championship! Our Division I Boys & Girls teams both took first place, and Division II Boys finished second. Top 10 medalists were **James Wimberley** 5th, **JT Hickman** 9th, **Sarah Kleppel** 1st, **Savannah Ohmes** 2nd, **Sara Bachelder** 3rd, **Grace Kleppel** 6th, **Sara Kate Beno** 7th, **Hadley Witherspoon** 8th, **Isaiah Zuniga** 4th, **Connor Lucenay** 9th, **Susanna Bachelder** 2nd, and **Selah Birch** 3rd place. Thank you to Coach Jones, Coach Zuniga, student trainer Jack Adkins, and our fantastic parent volunteers for their dedication to another successful season!



Varsity Volleyball in TAPPS Final Four

Congratulations to the Lady Paladin Varsity Volleyball Team who made PCS history as the *undefeated* TAPPS 2A District 6, Area, and Regional Champions! Because they finished first in District (42-1 on sets in our district!), they earned a bye for the Bi-District playoff game and advanced

as Top Seed in the Area playoff, hosted at PCS. The Paladins won the Area playoff in straight sets over Rockwall Heritage Christian Academy. They advanced to the Regional playoff against Greenville Christian at a neutral location in Palestine, TX, and again won in straight sets. The Lady Paladins were finally defeated in the Final Four match in Waco, supported in-person by our fantastic PCS superfans and watched live from our gym by all other PCS Upper School students. We are so proud of these hard-working and talented student-athletes! A huge thank you to Coaches Sean McQueary and Erin Williams, our amazing volleyball families, and our hyped-up Paladin fans for a fantastic season!

Back Row: *§Avery Crowley (12th), †§Peytyn Pyle (10th), †§Mia Crowley (10th - **District MVP**)

Middle Row: »Finley Albiston (9th), ‡§Savannah Goodwin (9th), °Cambry Wick (9th), »Trinity Hoffmeyer (12th)

Front Row: *»Hannah Wylie-Young (11th), *§Megan Sneller (11th), °Berkeley Scott (10th)

Not Pictured: Ellie Lancaster (10th), Chloe Bearden (9th)

**TAPPS Academic All State*

†1st Team All State

‡2nd Team All State

§1st Team All District

»2nd Team All District

°Honorable Mention All District



Middle School Volleyball A & B Teams 1st in District

Congratulations to our Middle School Volleyball teams who both played phenomenal seasons! Our A Team finished the season undefeated in their district but lost in the Division I semi-finals. The B Team were also in first place at the end of their regular season having lost only one game. They advanced through the playoffs to the Division II Championship and finished Runners Up. Thank you to Coaches Melanie Hudson and Grace Cottonham and to all our loyal parents and fans who cheered the Lady Paladins to victory!

A Team

Back Row: Coach Melanie Hudson, Nia Cottonham (8th), Lillian Wenger (8th), Addie Metry (7th), Coach Grace Cottonham

Middle Row: Avery Miller (6th), Victoria Silva (8th), Charlotte Goodwin (7th), Lexa Lancaster (8th), Angie Dupu (8th), Makenzie Turosik (8th)

Front Row: Lilly Adair (8th), Luci Ruffing (8th), Emma Hoffmeyer (8th), Dagny Anderson (8th), Erin Liles (8th)

B Team

Back Row: Coach Melanie Hudson, Sofia Boulos (7th), Olivia Simons (7th), Sophie Jennings (7th), Coach Grace Cottonham

Middle Row: Leah Sneller (6th), Ellery Farbe (7th), Davy Connor (7th), Alyson Pitre (7th)

Front Row: Harper Bruno (6th), Andrea Cunningham (6th), Katy Fuchs (7th), Brittany Valerio (7th), Zoey Stepan (6th)



Pre-Season UScore Soccer

UScore soccer boys and girls teams made up entirely of Providence middle school students both won 1st place in their league last weekend. PCS soccer Coach Chip Bachelder led these two teams to play with great skill and integrity as they prepared to represent PCS in this year's Middle School Soccer season. Well done, Paladins!

Girls Team

Back Row: Coach Chip Bachelder, Sara Bachelder (8th), Ella Witherspoon (8th), Alyson Pitre (7th), Brinley Stratton (8th), Patience Towers (8th), Fynley Farbe (8th)

Front Row: Ava Witherspoon (7th), Hadley Witherspoon (5th), Ellery Farbe (7th), Susanna Bachelder (6th)

Boys Team

Back Row: Sebastian Punhong (7th), Caedmon Rose (8th), Sawyer Farbe (8th), Alex Vorst (8th), Xavier Birch (8th)

Front Row: Christian Punhong (5th), Drew Witherspoon (5th), Louie Bachelder, Charlie Cunningham (6th), Jackson Rose (6th), Coach Chip Bachelder



Kemah Choir Days

The PCS Cantamus Choir, which consists of 7th-12th grade students, participated in a choral competition in Kemah, Texas called "Kemah Choir Days". They received the highest rating of First

Division: Superior and received a trophy! The students then enjoyed the Kemah Boardwalk amusement park as a reward for their hard work. We hope to make this a yearly tradition!



TAPPS Academic Teams

The Providence TAPPS Academic Teams are in their second year of development. To practice events, students compete against other public and private schools in Virtual Challenge Meets. The advantage to these contests, besides offering valuable practice, is that students compete both individually and as teams, whereas at the State Championship, they will only participate as individuals. Below are the results of their recent virtual meet. It's wonderful to see our Paladins working hard and succeeding in these new programs!

SOCIAL STUDIES (601 participants)

- Leila Powers: 36th among 2A students
- Henry Stevens: 11th among 2A students
- Team: 11th among 2A schools

CURRENT EVENTS (944 participants)

- Henry Stevens: 6th among 2A students, 25th among 11th graders, Top 9% overall
- Turner Young: 11th among 2A students, 3rd among 9th graders
- Team: 5th among 2A schools

LITERARY CRITICISM (457 participants)

- Annelise Parker: 21st among 2A students, 26th among 11th graders, Top 21% overall
- Jax Pickle: 14th among 2A students, 1st among 9th graders, Top 13% overall
- Isabel Vorst: 25th among 2A students
- Luke Williamson: 10th among 2A students, 8th among 10th graders, Top 10% overall
- Team: 4th among 2A schools and 17th overall

NUMBER SENSE (1126 participants)

- Team (Henry Stevens, Mark Williamson, Steven Wimberly): 15th among 2A schools

SPELLING (573 participants)

- Susanna Brink: 27th among 2A students
- Gianna Radvansky: 20th among 2A students
- Turner Young: 18th among 9th graders
- Luke Williamson: 12th among 2A students, 10th among 10th graders
- Team: 4th among 2A schools, 19th overall

SCIENCE (1012 participants)

- Price Jenkins: 17th among 2A students, 17th among 10th graders in Chemistry
 - Price Jenkins: 22nd among 2A students, 34th among 10th graders in Physics
 - Chase Jones: 32nd among 2A students in Chemistry
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Ryan Fowler: DAR Good Citizen Award

PCS Senior Ryan Fowler was selected by teachers to be awarded the [DAR \(Daughters of the American Revolution\) Good Citizen Award](#) sponsored by the Heritage Trails Chapter. This program and scholarship contest is intended to encourage and reward an outstanding member of the senior class who demonstrates the following qualities of good citizenship: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism. Congratulations to Ryan!

Connor Lucenay: Spelling Bee Winner

Congratulations to this year's school Spelling Bee winner, 6th grader Connor Lucenay, who won in a tight showdown with 8th grader, Ethan Googer! Connor will go on to compete in the Houston Private School Regional Spelling Bee this spring, and Ethan will serve as his alternate. Also, well done to all of our grade-level spelling champs who competed in the school Spelling Bee!



Alumni Updates: *Weddings & Engagements!*



Emma Laurel Price (Class of 2019) married Brady Van Hardin on July 29, 2023, in Spring, Texas. Emma is the daughter of PCS 5th grade teacher Kerry Price and her husband Joel. Emma's bridesmaids included her sisters, Ellie Kate (c/o 2022) and Brooke (8th grade), as well as Joanna Chan (c/o 2019). Emma and Brady currently reside in Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

Natalie Joy Sytsma (Class of 2019) married Peter Benjamin Mouw on August 10, 2023, in Zeeland, Michigan. Natalie is the daughter of former PCS 6th grade teacher Jacie Sytsma and her husband Andy. Peter and Natalie both graduated from Calvin University where she earned her degree in classics and literature. She is currently teaching art at a Christian school in Michigan. Natalie's own talent for art was nurtured and developed right here at PCS. You can view

and purchase some of her stunning work at njoyscreating.wixsite.com/0809.



Class of 2019 alumni **Emma Olivia Wilson** and **Andrew Ronald White** were married on June 23, 2023, in Conroe, Texas. Emma is the daughter of former PCS teacher Casey Wilson and her husband Van. Drew is the son of Logic School math teacher Jennifer White and husband Joey. The bridal party included: Addison Lindsey (c/o 2019), Jack Wilson (c/o 2021), Sophie White (c/o 2016) and Ryann White (c/o 2023). Drew and Emma both graduated from Oklahoma State University where he studied mechanical engineering and she studied industrial engineering. The couple currently reside in The Heights where they both found jobs following graduation.



Class of 2021 alumni **Anika Elizabeth Benthem** and **David Michael Reenders** became engaged on October 30, 2023. Anika is the daughter of Upper School science teacher Christy Benthem and her husband Derek. David is the son of first grade teacher Raquel Reenders and husband Michael. Anika and David both attend Oklahoma State University where she studies biology and he studies mechanical & aerospace engineering and participates in Air Force ROTC. The couple plan to get married next summer. Congratulations to the Benthem and Reenders families!



Former Providence coaches Jesaiah and Abbey Reed served for six years at PCS. During their time here, they married and started a family with two adorable and energetic sons who also became a cherished part of our school family. Last summer, the Reeds moved to Pennsylvania to work in sports ministry and have been greatly missed. Now we're pleased to announce that they recently added a baby GIRL to their family! Skylar Rose was born on November 8, weighing 8 lbs. 7 oz. and measuring 21 inches long. Congratulations, Abbey and Jesaiah! We praise God for your beautiful daughter and look forward to meeting her the next time you visit campus.

*Help us celebrate God's goodness within the Providence Classical School community.
Send newsletter submissions to [Dawn Adkins](#).*

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