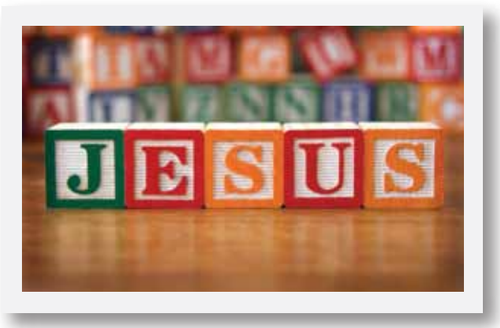
Peoples Christian Academy
CELEBRATE 1971-2011

THE QUILL

From the Office of the Director of Operations and Ministry | July 2013 | PCA.ca | 416.733.2010

PCA Early Learning Centre Opening in July!



After many months of waiting, we have finally received the necessary approval to operate a daycare ministry! Over the past few weeks our ELC supervisor, Genny Ng, has been working intently to ensure that we are in compliance with all of the requirements of the Ministry of Education. On Thursday, June 20 the program advisor from the ministry met with Mrs. Ng and gave the final approval – a landmark decision which favourably impacts many families!

The Early Learning Centre will be in operation as of early July. Limited spaces are now available for immediate placement for children from two and one-half years of age. The families who have paid the initial deposit and have been on our wait list receive priority access. For registration information please contact Mrs. Ng via email, gng@pca.ca or by telephone, 416-733-2010, Ext 110.

We are thankful to the Lord for this important development, enabling us to expand our ministry of care and teaching to the very young

Extra Classes Opening Up in the Junior School

Due to increasing student enrolment at both SK and Grade 1 there will be double classes at both these Grade levels for the 2013/2014 school year. Mrs. Wendy Strickland and Mrs. Sarah Wilkinson will be the teachers for the SK classes. Mr. Mark Strickland and Mrs. Sarah Eyre have been appointed as Grade One teachers as Mrs. Shin moves to be the homeroom teacher for Grade Two. We also will be welcoming Miss Hilda Lee as our new French teacher.

Mr. Philip Hospitalized

On Saturday, June 22, Mr. Alex Philip, Senior School Chaplain and the director of our missions program, was taken to Sunnybrook hospital following a seizure. At the hospital it was discovered that he had a brain tumour. Surgery was performed on Tuesday, June 25. We are happy to report that Mr. Philip came through the surgery well. At the time of this writing we are awaiting the results of a biopsy.

The PCA family has been called to pray for Mr. Philip, his wife, Elaine, and their two small children. It remains to be determined what impact this health challenge will have on whether Mr. Philip will be able to resume his teaching responsibilities in September. To post your prayers and thoughts on our facebook page, please visit: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Peoples-Christian-Academy/181436515199705

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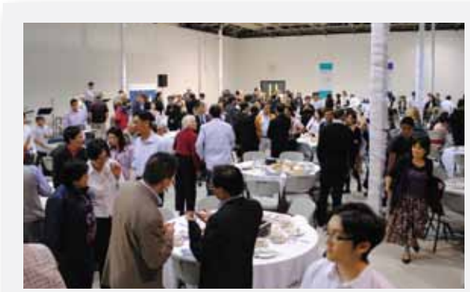
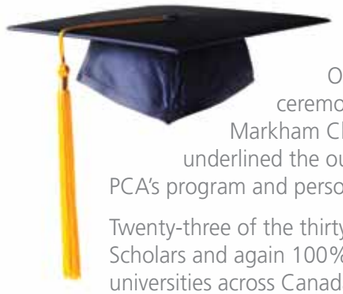
Advancement Dinner – A Great Success



On Saturday June 8, some 240 people gathered at the school site, 245 Renfrew Drive, for a gala event featuring world-renowned speaker, Josh McDowell. A team of volunteers, including PCA faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni pulled together to make a most memorable evening for all who attended. McDowell's message, as expected, was ground-shaking as he traced the declining trends in the acceptance of and adherence to biblical truth among today's "churched" youth.

On the subject of preparing the emerging generation to be ambassadors of Christ in any culture McDowell stated, "the churches cannot do it." He sees formal Christian education as being essential to the preservation of truth and the development of convictions in the hearts and minds of young people. More can be discovered about McDowell, including his writings and his ministry, at www.josh.org

In addition to the strong advocacy for Christian Education, in excess of $40,000 in cash donations was received. Further to this, a number of folks expressed interest in finding out more about other funding initiatives, e.g. bursaries, scholarships and visible legacies.



The Class of 2013

On Thursday, June 27, the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 2013 took place at Markham Chinese Baptist Church. The event again underlined the outstanding educational and spiritual quality of PCA's program and personnel.

Twenty-three of the thirty-one graduates have been named Ontario Scholars and again 100% of the graduates have been accepted at universities across Canada. In addition to the eight university destinations in Southern Ontario, some of our graduates will also be studying at McGill University and the University of British Columbia.

We offer our congratulations and prayers to the graduating students, who, even though they are leaving our classrooms, will always be a part of the PCA family.

Summer Hours

We are open July and August.
Closed Statutory Holidays.
Monday to Friday: 9:00am - 3:30pm

School Bus

We are pleased to be able to offer continued bus service from North York for the 2013/2014 school year. The bus will operate on a similar schedule as this year and will receive students at the same pick-up point, i.e., The Peoples Church on Sheppard Avenue.

We are interested in knowing if parents from points east, west and north of the school's location would be interested in having school bus service. **If you have an interest in the idea of daily school bus transportation for your child, please make it known to the school office personnel.** If enough interest is shown we would be happy to develop a proposal for our PCA community.

Help Spread the Word

We encourage all of our current parents to continue to spread the word whenever and wherever you can. **Mrs. Billie Ho** continues to be busy with prospective PCA parents, arranging tours of our facility. Some classes are already at maximum capacity so it is important that all interested parents give priority to registering their children for 2013/2014. To visit and tour our facility, please contact **Mrs. Billie Ho, 416-733-2010, Ext. 115** or email **bho@pca.ca**

Educational Diversity

PCA teachers continue to offer diverse educational opportunities to our students. On Thursday, May 30, our Middle School students, under the leadership of Mrs. McCormick, visited the Ontario Legislative Assembly and had the privilege of having their picture taken with the Hon. Michael Chan, MPP (Markham-Unionville). On that same day the students visited Famous People Players Theatre in the afternoon to see the production "Under The Big Top".

On Thursday, June 13, Mrs. Bulhman and her JS and MS students conducted an art exhibit at the school. Some amazing works were displayed accentuating the artistic talents of PCA students. In keeping with the nature of the event, live classical music was performed by our own PCA students.

On Tuesday, June 11, Mrs. Andrews, Mr. Spee and the Grade 4 and 5 classes travelled to Cedar Glen Outdoor Learning Centre. The students enjoyed the outdoors and the opportunity of learning specific skills from outdoor ed. professionals. In particular they were given instruction in high ropes and archery.

Farewell to Mr. Broomer

In the summer of 2010, PCA High School found itself in need of a principal with the resignation in June of Mrs. Cracknell. We believe it was the Lord's leading that enabled us to secure the services of Mr. David Broomer who agreed to come and serve PCA for one year. The reason for the one-year commitment was that he and Mrs. Broomer had just purchased a new home in Collingwood.

We now know that, through the Lord's leading, the one year extended to three years. Looking back, it has been vital, during the transition period while the school has been relocated and re-established in Markham, that Mr. Broomer's experience and leadership skills were able to be retained for the three years. Within the last year a new leadership team has been put in place. Miss Guy, Mr. Westacott and Mrs. Paas have been named as vice-principals of their respective divisions (Junior School, Middle School and Senior School) and will work alongside Mr. Andrews to provide educational and administrative leadership for the 2013/2014 school year.

Again, we have seen in this the faithfulness of God to PCA. The school is well-positioned to continue growing in all areas as we look towards the future. We wish Mr. Broomer well as he pursues the leading of the Lord for the next phase of his journey.

Other Personnel Changes

Mrs. Joanna Ong has been chairperson of the Parent Advisory Committee for the past four years. This year her daughter, Candice, graduates from Grade 12 which means, unfortunately, that Joanna will no longer be chair. She has provided excellent leadership and has served PCA with a high level of dedication. We hereby express our heartfelt thanks for one of our star volunteers!

Dr. Ron Gray has also served PCA with distinction for a number of years, first as an administrator back in the 1990's and more recently as a member of the Board of Directors. Dr. Gray's term of office as a director ended this year. We wish him well and thank him for providing such quality leadership to the organization for so many years.

There are a number of our faculty who will not be returning for the next school year. Mrs. Shirley Nanos, who has spent ten years at PCA, Mrs. Ruth McCormick, who has served for nine years and Ms. Rena Gaile, four years, will be pursuing other interests. We thank the Lord for the enormous contributions these ladies have made to the students and to the programming of PCA over the years. Two teachers who have served for shorter terms, Miss Lisa Semplonius and Mrs. Colleen Mariona, will also not be returning for the 2013/2014 school year. We pray for the Lord's direction as they seek His will for the future.