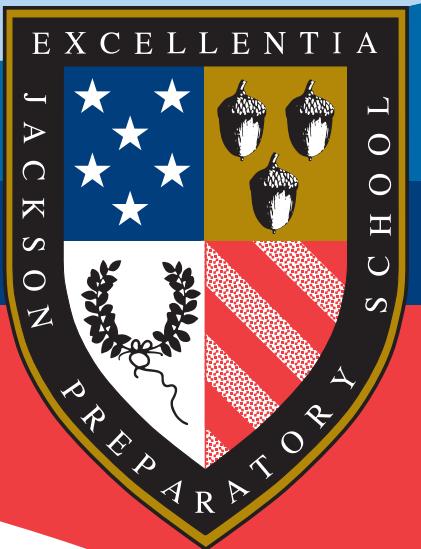


ePrepNotes

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF JACKSON PREPARATORY SCHOOL



leadership from the head of school

by Susan Lindsay, Head of School



This year I am again amazed with the high-caliber, multi-talented students that we have enrolled in our school. We strive to provide many opportunities within the classroom and through co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that will enhance the educational experiences of our students. It is a special privilege for me to work with them and get to know their families. I feel that communication is of utmost importance in keeping our students, faculty and parents connected and informed.

I mentioned during faculty in-service in August that there will be several changes this year. As parents, you have witnessed firsthand the changes with our new software, NetClassroom. We will also be changing the way we are handling school publications. A restructured *PrepNotes* will be available by on-line access through an e-mail blast that will give you a link to the PDF file. This publication will no longer be mailed unless requested by individuals. Also, the format of *PrepNotes* will include articles on specific issues from different departments within the school rather than student accolades and announcements. In addition, a weekly e-mail blast is being sent to parents on Mondays to provide pertinent information for the week. Daily announcement bulletins, which cover information for and about students, can be accessed through the Prep Web site. Our primary communication tool for student accolades will be press releases to the media, which will also be uploaded to "Prep in the News" on our Web site. **We are hopeful that these changes will enhance internal and external communications.** These changes will be evaluated in the spring, so please be prepared to give us feedback as we work through this transition.

In closing, let me again remind you that the focus of the school is the education of our students. I am well aware of the monumental challenges families face during this time. Let me encourage you to work with the school to help students learn how to celebrate their accomplishments, deal with their disappointments and develop personal skills to become our leaders of the future.

pat news

by Lisa Hubbard, PAT President

Prep PAT is the Parent and Teacher Association set up to benefit each Prep family and every faculty and staff member. The enthusiasm of this organization has been evident this past month during many events on the Prep campus. Many parents have been working alongside our teachers and administrators to make events successful for our students. Grade coordinators are still busy with activities that enhance every student's Prep experience. **Thank you to all parents who responded to the call for volunteers and many of you that have expressed your willingness to help throughout the year.** Please continue to check the PAT page on the Prep Web site for updates and coming events.

Our next PAT meeting will be October 22 at noon in the Multi-Purpose Room. These meetings are for all parents and are filled with new updates from teachers and administrators. We will also be treated to a preview of the upcoming musical production, *Cinderella*, which involves over 100 of our students. Be sure and mark your calendar for the October 22 meeting!



student life

junior high news

by Trudy Powers, Head of Junior High

It is never too early to begin teaching young people the skills they need in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The world has entered an era of enormous change, and it is up to parents and educators to help students learn skills not just in reading, writing, arithmetic, and the core subjects, but also skills in teamwork, communication, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving. Additionally, students must learn to develop a strong work ethic and take initiative and responsibility to perform a job to the *best of their abilities*.

It is Prep's mission to "inspire and challenge students toward academic, athletic, and artistic excellence...." We are committed to helping students recognize their unique potential as we guide them toward the development of their talents. Every student is important and has something of value to contribute. We should offer students support and encouragement to become self-sufficient learners without robbing them of self-esteem that comes from thinking independently. Learning how to solve problems and developing new skills can begin for students in the intermediate grades, or even before. Let's encourage our students to find success by giving a task the time and energy that is necessary to be a "job well done."

If kids today are to thrive in a global environment, we must encourage them to learn independently, to stay curious, be innovative, and to collaborate with others effectively.

high school news

by Dr. Luke Nealey, Assistant Head/Head of Senior High

Early the other morning before the sun came up, I walked through the house – a house where "nothing" was on – and was amazed at how many things *were* on. Lights from smoke detectors, clocks and all manner of electric devices glowed, ignoring the fact that the house was turned off for the night. This, in some ways, seemed to be a metaphor for the chapter in the book, *Nurture Shock*, by Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, which I had just read. The chapter in this book that reviews recent research on children and their development is entitled, "The Lost Hour," and discusses how lack of sleep affects kids and their development. I would guess that for many of our students, they are never turned off all the way.

Research cited in the book shows that on average teens today get about one hour less sleep per night than teens of thirty years ago. Any teacher in our high school can tell you that it would be an odd day when someone is not sleeping in class. How does this "lost hour" affect children? One-half of the 100,000 "fall-asleep" car accidents involve young adults. In one study, students that slept one hour less on three successive nights scored a full two grade levels below their previous test score. Research shows that a lot of brain work is happening in the developing teen brain while they sleep. Especially important activities appear to be related to memory, and without enough sleep, what students learn during the day won't be stored completely. While this is just one source and one look at these studies, I do know that getting enough sleep is definitely an issue in our school.

I would suggest a couple of things. The first is to help your kids sleep when it's time to sleep. Really turn off or remove distractions like cell phones, computers or TVs when your student should be sleeping. These are distractions/temptations that your teen may not be able to ignore. Secondly, with your student, make some hard decisions about what kind of schedule is actually possible to maintain. It is better to do a few things well and fully than to try and do everything just ok. I believe both your student's experience and their college application will benefit from greater depth of experience and more hours of sleep.



performing arts

by Dianne Holbert, Chair of Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department is feeling a little magic as it prepares for the production of Rodger's and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*. The production will be Saturday, October 31, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and on Monday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m.

The 122-member cast is learning the music and memorizing lines, while enthusiastic parents are constructing and painting the elaborate sets. The musical is directed by Dianne Holbert, Performing Arts Chair, who is assisted by Drama Director Kenneth McDade. Mr. McDade is now on staff here teaching four drama classes this year. Parent production managers are Rick Griffin and Bret Thiel.

Many magical activities are planned for Saturday's performances: a *Cinderella* tea party, costume contest, pictures in Cinderella's carriage and with the cast, pumpkin decorating, as well as several other events that will make for a fun alternative to Halloween right here on the Prep campus.

Tickets go on sale October 19. Get your tickets early; we sold out every performance last year. The *Cinderella* ticket line that you may call after October 19 to obtain tickets is 769-233-3194.

The Prep showchoirs, Fusion and Reveillon, have had nationally-known choreographers on campus working with them to learn their competition shows for the showchoir season in February. The junior high showchoir, Fusion, has grown from 31 students last year to 70 this year. Set crew members are still needed for Reveillon for the season. Please see Mrs. Holbert if you would like to help and travel with us.

The Prep band, under the direction of Mr. Steve Kincaid, has been making a great showing at the football games as they lead the fans in the fight song and other pep songs. Congratulations to the members and Mr. Kincaid as they begin their year with such enthusiasm.



service community service

by Anne Duncan, Director of Community Service

ON WITH THE SHOW... A COMMUNITY SERVICE PERSPECTIVE

Homecoming and “On With The Show” is fast approaching; the playbill may even be in your drawer. We as parents have a great deal of experience with “On With the Show” since one of our greatest challenges is training our students that they are not always “center stage” – the show is not always about them.

As the curtain draws in our homes, we find students who will soon become spouses, employees, roommates, in-laws, and parents. Many of these roles will last a lifetime. The casting requirements call for character qualities, such as humility, perseverance, faithfulness, longsuffering, and dependability.

Where are the rehearsals for these roles in the adolescent’s life? One option for such rehearsals is through giving of oneself as a volunteer. A student who volunteers has a chance to step onto the adult stage and see what is required to play that role before returning “backstage” (your kitchen table) to rehearse “the lines” not quite mastered. Consider some of these scenes: “Show Up On Time,” “Come When It Is Not Convenient,” “Prefer Others Over Yourself” or “Love Thinks About What is Needed.” We parents have a chance to sit way back in the auditorium for these rehearsals and offer words of encouragement as they try these new roles.

Prep hopes that students will find a good “rehearsal spot,” which serves as a proving ground for character development. Our encouragement to come to “these rehearsals” is not intended to make busy lives more hectic. But, as family schedules would allow, we encourage students to give alongside the cast of others who serve our local community. There are seasons of availability for each student, and that, too, is another valuable tutorial to learn “when to strike the scene.”

Colleges look for a student exhibiting signs of “many rehearsals.” Taking ownership in community projects gives evidence he or she is “learning his lines” to have impact in the role of servant leader. Sacrificial investment allows the student to cross the adolescent stage, humbled to join those on the other side who know “the show” is more pervasive and compelling than an individual world. Break A Leg!

ASBESTOS NOTICE

As part of an annual notification, we are informing all persons of their option of reviewing the Asbestos Management Plan, which would include documentation of any asbestos-containing materials at the school. To provide continuing management of the asbestos in our school, all asbestos-containing materials (ACM) are inspected every six months by an engineering firm from Jackson, MS. Any changes in the ACM are being recorded in a surveillance report as part of the Asbestos Management Plan. A copy of the surveillance report, along with a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan, is located in the Business Office. Any interested party should feel free to come to this office and review these reports.



world languages

by Dr. Elizabeth Franklin, Chair of World Languages

Hola and Bonjour! The World Languages Department at Prep has enjoyed a strong beginning to the 2009-10 school year! Students can already be seen (and heard!) speaking Spanish, French, Greek, Latin and Mandarin Chinese. Our lab is full every period of every day with students listening to news broadcasts, podcasts and music, and speaking their “second” language with more and more fluency.

This year, there are several new exciting opportunities for language students! Luis Campos has begun a weekly “Conversaciones con Campos” series (Conversations with Campos). Students enrolled in Spanish III and higher come to Señor’s classroom for informal conversations on a predetermined topic. Topics are posted outside the classroom so students can be ready to share. This is a great opportunity for students and instructors to practice Spanish conversational skills.

Another opportunity for Spanish students is assisting with Prep’s newest community project – a medical clinic that is being built in the area. This affordable clinic expects to serve many Hispanics in surrounding communities. Spanish III, IV and AP students will have the opportunity to help with patient intake, information gathering, form completion and other tasks they are equipped to undertake.

There are also several trips on the horizon for language students. Mr. David Hogue, Latin instructor, will accompany students to Greece and Rome during Spring Break. The Spanish instructors – Luis Campos, Elizabeth Franklin and Hunter Upchurch – are planning a study-abroad trip for Spanish students in Salamanca, Spain, the first two weeks of July. Students will participate in morning classes at the University of Salamanca and have fun activities and day trips in the afternoon and on weekends, including a couple of days in Madrid, Spain. There will be a parents’ meeting for this Spanish study program on October 15 at 6:00 p.m. in room 124 of the high school.