



# CENTER PLACE RESTORATION

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# School

November/December 2016

## WORKING TOGETHER

The last month — my first as the CPRS administrator — has been very challenging and very enlightening at the same time. My background in business and education has been helpful, but the most important aspect for me was the understanding and realization that CPRS is dedicated to the Lord, and thus His hand is upon the school as we allow it to be. Being at the school and participating in the everyday activities here has given me an even greater appreciation of this than I already had in my four years as a member of the CPRS Board of Trustees.

Seeing the sacrifice and dedication of the faculty, staff, and volunteers, has been a humbling experience for me. Harry S Truman once said, "It is amazing what can get done when it doesn't matter who gets the

credit." When we all work together toward a common goal, unselfishly giving of our time and talents, without concern for personal reward or gain, we will see God's hand at work with us. It is my testimony that it is best to turn the day over to the Lord at the very beginning, rather than wait for a situation to develop before going to Him.

In my teaching career, I once worked with an administrator who stated that students used to be supported by a 3-legged stool — those three legs being family, church, and school. He then shared that, in today's society, many times there is only one leg — the school. It is interesting now to be part of a school where that three-legged support is in place for the student. Even though this support system is not always there to the extent that

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the Lord desires for us, it is still heartening to see an effort of cooperation between these three entities.

If we, as individuals, families, and congregations, put our students in the Lord's hands first and reason together, we will be amazed at what He can and will do.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, may each of you turn even more to Him and enjoy the richest of His blessings.

*Dan Schoenemann  
School Administrator*

# REALIZING THE BLESSING

For as long as I can remember, I have been going to church camps and reunions every summer. It was what our family looked forward to most. For most years, reunion was our only vacation. I'm so thankful for that tradition. It had a great impact on my life. I made wonderful friendships, had great spiritual experiences, and learned many leadership skills. I remember the feeling I had when it was time for the camp to close. School would be starting soon and I wouldn't see my friends until the next district activity or music contest or sporting event. I often thought to myself, "Wouldn't it be great if we had a church school that we could all go to? It would be like reunion all year long."

Years later, I found myself sitting in a staff meeting at Center Place Restoration School. My kids had been going to the school for many years, but I had not fully realized the blessing of it. One year before, I had received a call from the school administrator and had been asked to teach elementary music. My degree is in Elementary Education and I had never taught music, but it was two days before school was to

start and they needed a music teacher. I had sung in some good choirs and I took a few voice lessons, but other than leading campfires and a few Vacation Church School Youth Choirs, I really did not have much experience. I talked to the former teacher, got some advice from a couple of music teacher friends, and leaned on a great accompanist. I made it through the year with a lot of prayer, fasting, and just taking one step at a time — or should I say one concert at a time?

After going through my first year of teaching music, I finally had some time to reflect. As I said, I was sitting in the staff meeting a day before the start of school. Our administrator asked if any of us had a testimony that we would like to share. The spirit flooded me. I knew I needed to stand and testify of his great blessings to me and my family. It wasn't until that moment that I realized that the Lord had allowed me to live the dream I had as a child. My children were going to a church school and I was teaching there. What a great blessing CPRS has been and continues to be to me and my family.

*Brenda Williams  
Elementary Faculty*

## A CHANCE TO HELP

Now in our 25th year, CPRS has been grateful for the support we have received from our church community. It is through your prayerful consideration and financial contributions that we continue to meet the needs of our families.

As the year draws to a close, those who feel led to assist in our work through monetary donations may designate one of three areas for use of their funds:

\*General operating fund, which provides academic fundamentals such as books, materials, salaries, and building upkeep.

\*Student Tuition Assistance, which provides financial assistance to our families who need help with their monthly tuition fees.

\*Adopt-a-Student, which gives you the opportunity to sponsor a specific student or family.

Contributions may be mailed directly to the school or you may visit our website at [cprsgoldeneagles.com](http://cprsgoldeneagles.com) and click on the green "donate now" button.

We appreciate your continued support of the students and our school.

*"And daily...they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."*

*Acts 5:42*

## A TRUE GIFT

As a parent, you ask yourself, "How can I provide a better environment for my child than I had growing up?" There is no perfect answer to this question. You have to pray and follow your heart. In our daily prayers for our children, my wife and I always ask for guidance concerning every aspect of their lives, including their education. We have done this ever since our oldest child – Hadlee – was a newborn. Before she was old enough to start school, we considered several options about where we might send her for her education. After exploring all options, and with prayerful consideration, we chose Center Place Restoration School.

CPRS has truly been a blessing to Hadlee's education. She receives the same curriculum she would get at a public school, but with a faith-based foundation. This foundation is what we were looking for in an educational environment, in order to be able to reinforce our faith outside of our home. CPRS is a true gift – not only for Hadlee, but for our entire family. We thank the Lord every day for providing this blessing.

*Matt Hakes  
CPRS Parent*

## CHOOSE TO LOOK FOR THE GOOD

I started my time at CPRS in kindergarten, was homeschooled in 1st and 2nd grade, and then came back in 3rd grade. I have been here ever since. Those two years that I was away, I knew I was missing something that I had experienced my first year. Something about the building, the students, the teachers, all left this feeling in my heart that I couldn't pin down — I just wanted to go back. I remembered the feeling when I would walk into the sanctuary for chapel every week and see the older kids singing praises to God. I was so happy. My little body would be filled with joy as I looked around at all the people clapping their hands and smiling with this energy for Jesus. I didn't know why I always felt so happy walking in, I just did. I would crave the whole-school chapels because I knew that meant the songs would be loud, and I would get goosebumps listening to the big kids singing behind me. I loved that. When I finally went back in third grade, that exact feeling I had missed so much came back. I would walk into chapel and would get the same joy I had a few years ago in kindergarten. As I grew older, I got more involved

with church camps and church classes, and started to learn what the spirit was supposed to feel like and how to recognize it. The description I always heard perfectly matched what I had been feeling all these years at CPRS. It explained the overwhelming burning happiness of hearing the praises to God, the smiling faces of the teachers who so lovingly took me under their wing, and the pride our school had for Jesus.

As I've grown older, I have learned so many lessons and gained wonderful experiences. You can choose to look for the good or the bad no matter where you are, and there is so much good to be found here. The teachers have shown me what true sacrifice looks like. They could be teaching somewhere else, most likely making much more, but instead continue here staying long into their evenings to help us with anything we need. They bend over backwards for us, and give us as many opportunities as they can.

I have made lifelong friends with my class and have unforgettable memories. Service projects to help the homeless, putting on church services, crying together, laughing together, going to Chinese buffets together, everything together. I have

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Visit us at

[www.cprsgoldeneagles.com](http://www.cprsgoldeneagles.com)



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watched my class grow into strong, independent, and beautiful people who will go out and make a positive impact on the world with the lessons they have learned here. I couldn't be prouder of the school , and I am forever grateful for what it has done for me.

*Mara Palmer  
Senior 2016*



## The Spirit of Giving

This is the time of year when we stop to reflect on stories of love and giving, and this account of a recent incident at CPRS is especially appropriate at this time.

Pre-schooler Olivia was excited to visit our school's Book Fair last month. Her mother, an alumus of CPRS, and her grandma, a current staff member, intended to buy her a few books, but wanted to let her pick them out herself. After making her selections, Olivia's eye was drawn to the other trinkets. Pens. Erasers. Jewelry. She found a necklace that she wanted very much. Her mother told Olivia she couldn't get the necklace at that time, but something like it might end up in her Christmas stocking. Unbeknownst to Olivia, mom had already bought the necklace for just that purpose. Little Olivia is at the age where she's learning

that we don't always get what we want, and sometimes we do get what we want but we have to wait. It's a hard lesson, and she started to cry. Not the "I'm mad because I didn't get my way" tears, but the "my heart is so broken" kind. As Olivia's mother consoled her, an elementary girl walked over to them, hand outstretched. "I heard her crying and I thought she would like this." In the girls' hand was the necklace, purchased with money she had brought to school to buy books of her own. She decided instead to use her money to touch the heart of another.

May we each look within ourselves and experience this type of selfless giving during the holiday season, and throughout the coming year. (And if you are wondering, the student was given the necklace that had been originally bought for Olivia.)

