

Team Cornerstone Quarterly



ON KEEPING SCORE

With People Playing a Different Game

BY BRANDON MCCALL

The audience was gripping the edge of their seats...

For roughly 73 minutes, our team ran hard, fought, kicked and scrapped with everything they had against league perennial powerhouse Portersville Christian in the soccer season opener.

Cramps or sheer exhaustion from maximum effort in the beaming sun were the only thing that brought a sweat-soaked player out to recover for a few precious moments before taking back to the field. Meanwhile, a younger teammate, usually a 6th or 7th grader, filled in during the high intensity varsity match that slowed down for no one.

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A PRAYER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

"Dear Father in heaven. We are so thankful for the mighty God You are and what You have brought us through so far, however it's just the first step in the journey. We struggle to continue the momentum and yet You try to keep us close to the edge, because when we're close to the edge we have our focus on You and allow You to address some of these problems. We would thank You for what we've received and ask for additional encouragement as You uncover new ways to reach these people, creatively, putting things together to draw us together. So Lord, we humbly bow before You and Your mighty power, and we raise up our belief that You will continue that into the next year. We thank you in the name of Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

**-Joe Balena, transcribed from the October 10th meeting
of the Board of Directors**



**"Grandpa" Joe Balena
(Member of the Cornerstone Prep Board of Directors)**



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Families, students, and teachers gathered to kickoff the 2022-23 school year together with worship, prayer, and plenty of community building.

Because Cornerstone isn't for students. It's for families.

BECAUSE FAMILIES MATTER



Opening messages to remind of the mission and vision of where we are heading.



Worship. Praising Him for His faithfulness.



Teachers and administrators led breakout sessions to orient families to things like technology, mission, and ways to get involved.



BACK TO SCHOOL: First Day 2022-23!



PARENTS HAVE A BIG JOB...

In our modern world, training up children to understand Truth, walk with God, and have the necessary skills to be effective for life and work in the real world is a massive task. And it can't be done alone. That job requires a team to come alongside the family journey to encourage and equip them (and their kiddos) on the path to a victorious parenting win!

This is what Cornerstone Prep exists to do.

For this mission to succeed, relationships must be invested in and cultivated around Christ. On the first day of school, that all begins with a welcome and an enthusiastic "Hi! We are happy to see YOU!"

This is what it is to meet young people where they are. It's greeting them with a smile, sharing an encouraging word, and asking them to "come along" with us on an amazing adventure in Biblical discipleship together.



“ Relationships change lives! ”

Ms. Barb Mima



"LET'S GO!"





CORNERSTONE ASSEMBLIES: A MISSION ESSENTIAL

The gymnasium is filled with basketballs, smiles, voices and song in the early morning light as bleary eyes come to life. Some play tag, others convene on the bleachers, while others catch up on homework.

A senior student leans back into the upholstery of a motorized scooter and props his broken leg in the air as a third grader comes up to him with a thought and a wry smile. "Can I drive?" he asks. The senior responds back naturally and quickly, "You don't have a license to drive this scooter". He smiles broadly at the younger student, and they roll into a conversation. It's about nothing in particular, but has immense value to both.

The senior heads off to Botany and the younger heads to Spelling. Morning huddle ends but relationships continue.



Cornerstone students gather for an assembly every morning and at weekly chapels and other special events.



Above: "Morning Huddle" a piece by Mr. Dave Wolf, Teacher of English and Literature, coach, and disciple maker.





NEW THREADS AND A NEW LOOK AT CORNERSTONE

Our modern world is obsessed with the idea of “expressive individualism.”

Put another way, people (particularly young people, though not exclusively) battle an internal struggle of identifying 1) who they truly are and 2) how they express that to the world.

In this, lives a very deep need for a person to be accepted for who they believe themselves to be inwardly, as they express that outwardly.

Limitations of that expression (i.e. dress code), often create stress that an individual’s true self will be muted, denying their ability to be recognized for who they truly are.

This highlights one of humanity’s great paradoxical dilemmas: People crave freedom (expression), but we also yearn to belong (adorning markers of a group). Why do all teenagers dress rather alike? Where do we fit in? Where do we belong?

There is more anxiety today in the most prosperous society in the history of the entire world. Why?

At least, in part, it is because so many struggle with identity – grappling with who they truly are – and knowing their role and place in this world. And this is a truth that is not found in clothing, gender, or any other outward display (as promoted by the expressive individualists). This truth of what it is to be human is only found in the Bible.

discipleship  **everything**



"It's actually made my life so much simpler!"
Anonymous High School Girl

"It's taken away a lot of the stress with picking clothes."
Anonymous Junior

"I feel more professional in school."
Joe, 6th grade

This is what is meant when we say we “find our true identity in Christ.” Because what gives value and definition to our lives is not what is expressed outwardly but is rooted in the Truth that we are made in the image of the eternal Creator of the universe.

Who we are doesn’t change with what we wear. And, rather ironically, a uniform style dress code is an attempt to elevate the truest form of students by allowing the focus to be solely on that which makes them truly special and remarkable. It lets us focus on learning and disciple making and gets things out of the way of relationship building with a true person that we want to see flourish in this world in their true identity in Jesus Christ!



"Children's children are a crown to the aged..."

As Proverbs says: "Children's children are a crown to the aged..." What a precious gift that, not only do our grandparents have these precious crowns, but they have chosen to share them with the world in a way that makes our school that much more beautiful.

It is our deepest hope that the Lord would use every resource in the lives of these children to train them up to live incredible lives for God's glory that would bring honor to the family legacy that our grandparents have worked and prayed so hard to establish.

For grandparents that pray for our school, we are indebted to you.

For those that volunteer at our school, we are humbled by you.

For those that give financially to our school, we are blessed immeasurably by the precious sacrifice that allows over 80% of our students to attend Cornerstone Prep on financial aid.

The relationships of these grandparents with these grandchildren and their relationship with Cornerstone changes lives! So, we celebrate them and all that God does through them, God-willing, for generations to come!



GRANDPARENTS DAY!



On Keeping Score

BY BRANDON MCCALL

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It pained my soul to leave for a meeting, while there were only a few minutes left in the game with a score tied at 0.

No news came to me about the result. No news was sought, either. Because, honestly, it didn't matter.

I watched something truly remarkable – and it wasn't soccer. A team of young people came together, paying no mind to what appeared to be insurmountable odds, and gave absolutely everything they had on the field. Young and old, boys and girls. Everyone, together, pulling hard.

But it was who they were while doing it that blinded my eyes to the scoreboard.

They prayed before and during the game. They were polite. They encouraged each other and took leadership. They showed courage. They were patient with the young. They smiled. They ran incredibly hard until they had nothing left. They cheered.

In a word, they were Christlike.

When we say we play for an audience of One, we mean it. When we say that we are more concerned about who our players are during the game than what they do during it, we mean it. When we say we are more concerned about culture than championships, we mean it.

Everything we do as a school community is about discipleship – period.

It's about building and training young men and women to become who they are designed to be in Christ, while using whatever circumstance they are in to do it. Sometimes that's a classroom, play blocks, or a shop class. Sometimes we use a ball and a field.

This is not an easy path - It's a difficult one. But we believe young people are capable of excellence and that people like you supporting them along the way can be transformative to their lives in the process by the Grace of God.

It's what I witnessed at that game that was so remarkable that it made me forget to care about the score. I never actually learned the result until I arrived at school on Wednesday morning. The students told me they edged out a 1-0 victory.

But I knew they won far before that. You did, too.

At Cornerstone, we aren't competing with anyone. And a number on an enrollment roster, test, or a scoreboard cannot measure what we are actually playing for.

Whether on a field or in the classroom – our families, students, and teachers keep score differently, because God called us to play a totally different game...



Senior, Jonah Held

Jonah's leadership guided the Wildcats to a SWCAC playoff berth.

"As a team, we are focused on 'process.' The process of improving. Of work. Of developing as people and building something together..."

DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH SPORTS: FALL ATHLETICS CONCLUDE SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS



[Above] Coach Steve Vinay



Junior, Logan Webb



Junior, Daniel Zimmerman

"We are focused on who we will become, not on who we were."



Ava and the Lady Cats volleyball team won the Division Championship this season. [Left] Senior, Ava Downie (Division MVP)



Senior, Elan Nirella

"Leadership isn't about power. It's about being an example for others to follow for years to come."





"FACES"

At a Cornerstone event, we don't talk TO our students. We talk ABOUT them!

Parents need to hear authentic words of encouragement spoken about their children. The young people need that too!

Many years ago, we began a tradition of talking about each and every individual senior during graduation commencement, rather than bringing in a speaker. We believe community events are opportunities to point out what we see in a student for all to see.

Cornerstone sports banquets have a similar focus and the coaches take the time to intentionally speak about each student athlete.

These photos captured the moment that a student heard their coach speak about them.

A picture says a thousand words...

Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Proverbs 18:21



Coach Steve Vinay

Coach Jessica McCall



Anecdotes with Ari: Community Cacophony

BY SENIOR, ARI ALLON

The volleyball soars into the air, remaining motionless for what feels like an eternity at its peak, before...

Bang!

The Cornerstone Ladycat spikes it down onto the other side, scoring the first point of the final home game. The team's cheers for the player are almost deafened by the cheers from the crowd, filled with teachers, students, and families. The player's eyes light up as she realizes that her play was valued more than for a simple point or a good move; it was seen as a member of the community excelling at what they've trained for. The hype does not die down as the game progresses, from the first point to the 3-0 victory for the Ladycats.

It was a strong ending for the night. Both the volleyball team and their adoring fans left the Sportatorium content. However, the game wasn't enjoyed just because of the girls' win. Just like the player's first point, it was worth more than it's face value: it showed that the Cornerstone community was stronger than ever.

That community was what made the night so loud.



Ari Allon (above) is pursuing legal studies after graduation from Cornerstone this Spring.



Cornerstone Prep Class of 2023

SENIORS ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TURNS HEADS

But their development as Godly men touches hearts!

Check out a few tidbits about four of our seniors and just a few of their academic accolades below.



(Above) Ethan Schoonmaker (1430 SAT) and Caden Schipani (1440 SAT) have been both engineering and marketing/design standouts. Ethan will be pursuing Design and Innovation and Caden will study Engineering, both at Grove City College this coming Fall.



Ari Allon (1460 SAT) met with (below, right) former Deputy Attorney General under President George Bush and current President of Grove City College, the honorable Paul McNulty (the two discussed law and God for 30 minutes).



Daniel Brown (above) earned national acclaim as a Bible Quizzing standout. Brown scored a 1390 SAT and is pursuing studies in Engineering at Grove City College.



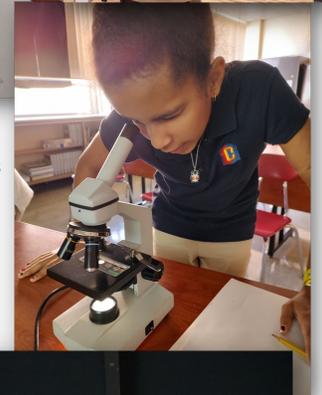


AUTHENTIC EDUCATION IN ACTION

Preschool and Kindergarten take their new "personalized learning" with Mr. and Mrs. Winchester to the field and explore Triple B and Round Hill Farms (below).



Authentic education is getting "hands on" to develop the kind of learning that matters for life and work in the real world.



FAMILY DINNER AND NIGHT OF WORSHIP



Every month, Cornerstone hosts an event for students and their families to gather for a meal followed by prayer and worship. The evenings have been well attended and, most importantly, Spirit-filled!



CORNERSTONE ENDOWMENT FUND, ESTABLISHED.

The Cornerstone Board of Directors is pleased to announce the establishment of the Cornerstone Endowment Fund. This fund has been established through the generosity of the late Mrs. Esther L. Gould, who valued access to Christian education and chose to create a legacy through her estate as a declaration of her values.

This fund will exist to support Cornerstone Prep in perpetuity through providing scholarships as well as supporting other needs of the school.

To find out more about how you can leave a legacy at Cornerstone through planned giving, or if you would like to make a gift, please contact Cornerstone Executive Director Cindi McCall.



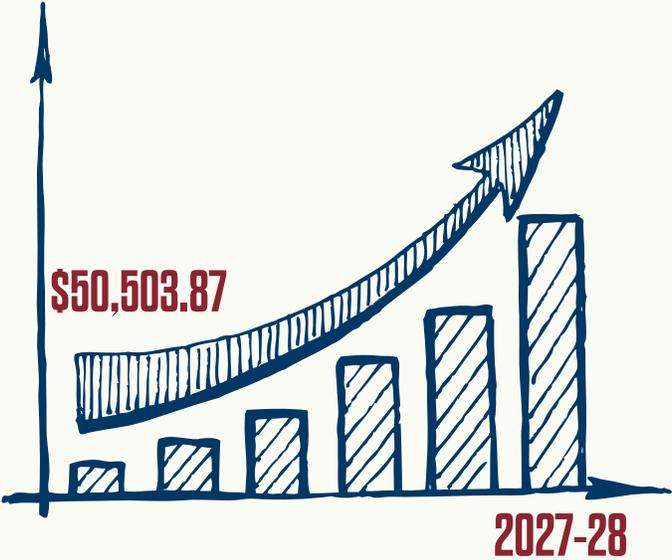
“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor, their righteousness endures forever; their horn will be lifted high in honor.”
Psalm 112:9

Mrs. Esther L. Gould was a Christian educator of 40+ years. She was born Feb. 11, 1932, in McKeesport, PA. A beloved elementary school teacher for more than 40 years, she retired from Wilson Christian Academy in 1997 after teaching there for 20 years. She was an active member of First Evangelical Free Church in McKeesport.

It is fitting that Mrs. Gould's life will continue to make an impact in the lives of children through Christian education for years to come!



cindimccall@cornerstoneprep.net
(412) 466-1919



The Cornerstone Endowment Fund was seeded with a bequest from Esther L. Gould for \$38,503.87

Make a difference. Get involved.

God calls families to train up children that walk with Him. None of us can do that alone. Serving at Cornerstone is a great way to not only help families fulfill their calling, it's a way to build a community that'll help you fulfill yours.



We'd LOVE grandparents, parents, family, and supporters help with:

- Lunch server/student helpers
- Arrival/dismissal observation and support
- Facility improvements, inside and out
- Substitute teachers
- Coaching
- Concession stand help
- After school activity support
- Facility house keeping
- Recess monitoring
- Bulletin boards
- Home sports game help: score books/clocks/ticket sales
- Activities/community event help
- Fundraising/scholarship advocates
- Networking
- And more!



I PETER 4:10

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."



WHO DO I CONTACT?



SAVANNAHMURHAMMER@CORNERSTONEPREP.NET



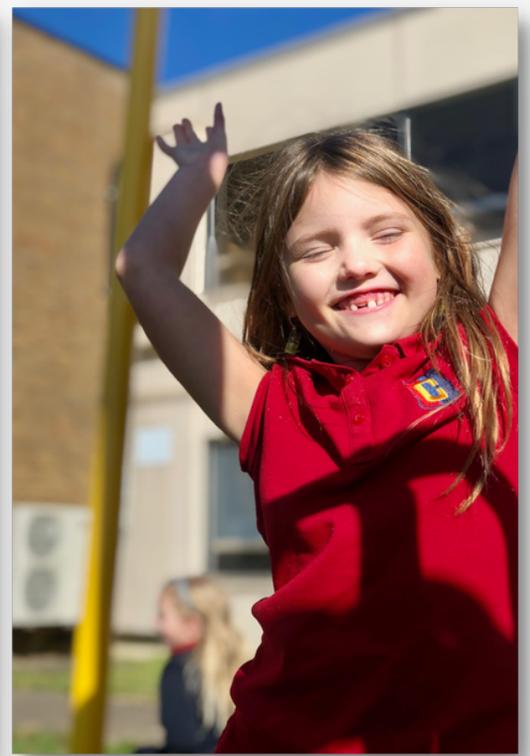
Biblical discipleship. Authentic education.

JOIN US



"Team Cornerstone" Facebook Group

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY TO SHARE IDEAS, NEEDS, ENCOURAGEMENT, OR EVEN PRAYER REQUESTS!



YOU

GOT

THIS!

Join us online!



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