

The Panther Paw

A Newsletter Celebrating Park Century's Best and Brightest



PCS Panthers Play Campaign News

In October, PCS celebrated Back to School with our Annual Open House by welcoming our parents to campus to experience the classroom environment and learn more about their students' curriculum for the year. Additionally, this year our parents had the opportunity to hear from Trustee and current parent Jason Keller, who provided a highly- anticipated update on our campaign to Put the Park in Park Century. He shared with our community that over the summer, PCS received our long-awaited city approval on our expansion plan, and we also reached our fundraising marker of \$5 million, which will trigger the beginning of construction on our outdoor recreational space as well as additional classrooms and expanded underground parking. The intention is to break ground on this exciting project during the summer of 2020, and we can't wait to work together with the community as we make this ambitious vision a reality for generations of future PCS students to come.

If you are interested in learning more about donating to our campaign to Put the Park in Park Century, please contact Tracy Sidler, Director of Development at tsidler@parkcenturyschool.org.

20

DECEMBER 20

Last Day of School

Friday is the last day of school before our Winter Break- enjoy celebrations and well wishes for the coming holidays

23

DECEMBER 23 -
JANUARY 3

Winter Break

Have a restful and relaxing holiday season with your loved ones

8

JANUARY 8

Parents Association Meeting

Join our Parents Association for the first meeting of the new year

16

JANUARY 16

School Photo Make-Up Day

Absent or having a bad hair day the first time around? Here's your chance for a re-do!

Happening at Park Century:



PCS Panthers Hard at Work and Play

From tinkering to tech, and everything in between, our variety of educational programs have kept all of our Panthers busy this semester! In this fall/winter issue of **The Panther Paw**, our bi-annual PCS newsletter, we are thrilled to share exciting Panther Play campaign updates, and highlight a fall semester that has been full of hands-on learning, adventurous field trips, enhanced arts programming, exciting cultural events, and inspiring guest speakers. This issue celebrates what it means to be a part of this remarkable and uncommonly bright community.

Inside the Art Studio

Our new Arts and Humanities program, led by Kristy Lloyd, encourages each Park Century student to engage their five senses and use their imaginations to experience many cultures across the globe. The program examines art history through a humanitarian lens, offering rich insight to past and current cultures that influences the art produced and provides a cross-curricular history or social studies lesson. Lessons completed so far this fall include self-portraits, animal sculptures, and cave drawings. Students can also visit the art studio during recess and after school for a more free-form creation process. The current trend in the art studio is recycled art! Students solicit staff and parents asking for old toys, build materials, buttons, shiny objects, craft supplies, paper towel and toilet paper rolls - you name it! - to inspire their individual creations. Stop by the art studio to see these fascinating works on display throughout the year! Please feel free to participate by bringing in any recyclable materials that you may have lying around - our students would love it!



The PCS Green Team

This year, PCS has become greener! As part of an initiative to educate students on being environmentally conscious in consideration of future generations, we created the "Green Team," a group of students, guided by our

COO Jenn Palmer and Science Instructor Erin Miller, who periodically meet and discuss ways to make PCS more eco-friendly. Club members serve as green ambassadors to help educate their peers, enhance the school's recycling and composting program, and engage in thoughtful discussions about the impact of waste on the environment.

Photography at PCS

Due to high interest in the creative arts, PCS has extended our elective program to add a photography class! Our 8th graders, who began taking the course this fall, have completed photo projects with the prompts "Who Am I?" and "A Day in the Life" and are currently working on self portraits. The program, taught by Elisa Haber, prominent photographer and proud parent of a recent PCS graduate, will be extended to include all grades in January 2020. Elisa (whose work has been published in Flaunt, Vibe, Entertainment Weekly, Variety, Newsweek, Time, The Los Angeles Times, and The San Francisco Chronicle) designed the curriculum to include photography history, notable photographers, various types of photography (portraits, landscapes, documentary, etc.), lighting composition, studio lighting, making pinhole cameras, using professional camera equipment, and attending a local gallery show. If you're on campus, stop by to see some of the amazing 8th grade pieces displayed outside the art room!





Dia de los Muertos

As part of an ongoing effort to enrich our learning through diverse experiences, the PCS Diversity & Equity Committee and the PA Diversity Committee teamed up for the second year in a row to host a school-wide celebration of Dia de los Muertos. The celebration included educational videos and stories presented during assembly and a screening of the movie *Coco*. Community members brought in photos of departed loved ones and pets they wanted to memorialize and displayed them on a beautiful tribute wall in our hallway.



PCS Parent Wellness Committee

This fall, the PCS Parent Wellness Committee invited parents, educators, and friends from the surrounding community to a screening of the IndieFlix movie *LIKE*, a documentary about the impact of social media on our lives. Following the film, an expert panel, led by Digital Media Specialist & Founder of ReConnect, Julia Storm, Dr. Jonine Nazar-Biesman from NeuroSense

Psychology, and Dustin Weissman, CEO and Founder of the Digital Addiction Recovery Center, discussed media use in adolescents from a clinical and therapeutic standpoint and answered questions for audience members. The event was a success, demonstrating the shared need for parent education in the area of digital media. Thanks to the Wellness Committee, Park Century parents identified that need in our community and then applied it to the greater community by creating space to converse with others who have similar questions and issues surrounding the pros and cons of social media. Park Century was thrilled to host this event and plans to seek many more opportunities to welcome community members inside our doors to discuss the topics most prevalent in the lives of parents and educators.

Advisory Program

Our Advisory groups (grouped by grade and identified gender) meet every Friday with their Faculty Advisors to discuss triumphs and struggles of their weeks and to share experiences linked to important educational topics like digital citizenship, health and wellness, and the effects of peer pressure. To promote an atmosphere of trust, students and Faculty Advisors agree in their very first meeting that what happens in Advisory stays in Advisory, providing a safe space for middle schoolers to speak honestly and listen intently to their peers. As the Advisory groups build cohesiveness, they begin to take on service projects that shift their focus to engaging with the greater community. The 6th graders volunteer to sort food at the Westside Food Bank twice a year. The 7th graders participate in Heal the Bay's Adopt-a-Beach program by committing to three beach cleanups at Dockweiler State Beach. The 8th graders team up with Allies for Every Child to provide mentorship, friendship, and guidance. Our Advisory program aims to strengthen the social aspects of our students' education by encouraging the expression of personal feelings, fostering a respect for the feelings of peers, and then applying this social awareness beyond Park Century.



PCS Alumni High School Matriculation

In June, we celebrated the graduation of 16 PCS students from the 8th grade. We were sad to see them go, but so proud of them for all they have accomplished. Take a look at where our promising recent crop of alumni from the class of 2019 are continuing their high school journeys:

Roland Asch- *Santa Monica High School*

Luca Beccaria- *Pacifica Christian High School*

Eli Bigelow- *Proctor Academy*
Kaiya Rae Brown- *University High School*

Eliza Bucatinsky- *Tree Academy*
Ivy Bucksbaum- *de Toledo High School*

Marius Chiang-Popa- *Idyllwild Arts*
Sean Crummy- *Westmark School*

Jude Ellender- *Fusion Academy*
Jude Grammer- *Salisbury School (CT)*
Sonya Haber-Levin- *LACHSA*

Avery Honablu- *Crespi Carmelite*
Roxie Katz- *Mary McDowell Friends School (NY)*

Sadie Kemmerer- *Pacifica Christian High School*

Jude Kouyate- *Pacifica Christian High School*

Graham Wolff- *de Toledo High School*



Annual Fund Thank You!

We want to take this opportunity to say a special Thank You to our friends and families who gave so generously to last year's Annual Fund for 2018-2019

Head of School's Circle (\$25,000+)

Anonymous

Visionary (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Anonymous
Edith Andrews
Kevin Crummy and Lily Fukuda Crummy
Leslie Goodman
Tiffany Lovett
Benjamin and Barbara Madley
Steve and Jodi Schwartz
Kurt Sutter and Katey Sagal Sutter
Patrick and Lauren Whitesell

Leadership (\$5,000- \$9,999)

Anonymous (2)
Pramod and Josephine Atluri
Dan Bucatinsky and Don Roos
Bill and Kate Desser
David and Ashley Frandzel
Isla Garraway and David Shavelle
Robert Herscu
Justin and Michelle Hunt
Jason and Sara Keller
Heidi Klum
Heidi and Andrew McKenna
Brian and Julia Mitchell
Kenneth H. Salkin '76 and Michal Amir-Salkin
Juan Carlos Terroba and Lorena Tron Aguinaco
Phyllis Thomas
Stephen and Pam Thomas
Trish and Dana Torrey
Tina Holmes and John Tripp
Steven and Helena Usdan
David and Sally Weil
Jared and Courtney Wolff
Seth and Cailin Wunder

Benefactor (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

The Andrews Family
Anonymous
Darlene and Mark Beccaria
Rob Becher and Carolyn Yashari Becher
Matthew and Christy Cherniss
Charles and Monika Heimbald
Laura and Eric Heimbald
The Hutchins Family
Ilana and Klaus Koch
Robert and Elizabeth Lowe
Allison and Jeff Mirkin
Amanda and Brendan O'Brien
Guy and Heather Primus
Megan Wyler and Peter Raeburn
Dorothy and Avram Salkin
Steve and Dana Shrager
Ian and Rochelle Siegel
Kelly and Matt Sloan

The Stirling Family

Patron (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Anonymous
Orie Argamany
Jason Asch
Michael Bryant
Carrie Crossman
Natasha and Doug Croxall
Tom Dey and Coliena Rentmeester
Rene and Danny Farahmandian
John and Bess Fiedler
Samantha and Jeremy Garelick
The Goren Family
Moise Hendeles
Michelle and Aboubacar Kouyate
Dan Lukas and Anne Jarmain
Erica and Brian McLoughlin
Maryann and Michael McManus
Nicole Nathanson
In Honor of Amy Rabins
Naomi and Ryan Raddon
Said Saffari and Heidi Wettenhall Saffari
Bruce Savett, '69
Sandy Savett, in honor of Bruce '69 and Susan Savett
Laura and Danny Shamam
Neil Sherman
Tina Simmer
Christina and Glen Suter
Sara Noyes and Pete Vitale
Greg Yaitanes
Jillian and Christopher Yost
Michael Zells

Supporter (up to \$999)

Marwan and Mies Al-Sayed
Carolyn Alexander
Anonymous (3)
Randi and Zahi Ashkenazi
Lisa B. Bell
Amy Bessone
Kevin Bird and Carlin McArthur
Marcia and Geoffrey Blake
Timothy and Virginia Bliss
Elizabeth Bloom
Roger Brossy and Rona Elliot
Jill Bucksbaum
Claire and Martin Burns
Colin Chambers
David Chavez
Kory Chavez
Andrea Christeas
Tamy and Marc Cohen
Sheila and Sidney Cohn
Elizabeth and Shawn Collins
Kira and Craig Cooper
Lily Corzo
Brent and Joanna Curtis
Lisa and Brett Doherty
Sid and Patty Durant
Casey Dyson
David Ellender and Jane Lord
The Eshel Family
Lorraine Finkelstein
Tricia and Bill Flumenbaum
Judith Fuller
Paul Fuller, Jr.
Ellie Germain
Erin Gonzalez
Greg Goodman
Adriana Green
Hector Guerra
Elisa Haber

Dana Halsted and Patrick McGurk
Alicia Ham
Stacy Harding
TJ Harney
Helen and Ray Hartung
Jon Hay
Kyle Hay
Daniel Hinerfeld and Laura Kleinhenz
Peale Iglehart
Paul Jennings and Adrienne Grant
Lindsay Jung
Mitchell Katz and Igael Gurin Malous
Leah Kayajanian
Erika and Mike Kemmerer
Meryl Kesten Podgur
Charles King and Stacey Walker King
Aimee Knowlton
Chris Koch and Heather Cox
Audrey Kraus
Lolly Krissman
Jessie Kummer
Steven and Danielle Kupferman
John and Paige Lapinski
Susan Jackman and Herb Leary
Nikki and David Lebow
Christine Lennon
Robert and Leigh Leveen
Julie and Brian Liebman
Kristy Lloyd
Mike and Christy Lowe
Rosie Lu
Rachel Maczuzak
Esme McTighe
Christine Meiojas
Charlie Merrill
Allyson Miles
Erin Miller
Dena Morley
Priya and Sanjay Nambiar
Molly Nelson
Stone Newman and Randi Cuba Newman
Sarah Nolan
Hilla and Michael Nourmand
Eileen and Terence O'Brien
Courtney O'Rourke
Meg and Gregg Ostrow
Jennifer Palmer
Randi Parent
John Pham
Julie and Damon Pressman
Mary Ann Quirke
Lucile Raines
Nora Rentt
Deena Rice
Gina Robins
Genna and Zack Ryan
Adelina Salas
Christina Sanchez
Kalpana Sarathy
Misty Schenbaum
Ginger Segar
Steven and Lou Anna Selsky
Sally and Bennett Shaywitz
Tracy Sidler
Rick Simmer and Thomas Michna
Kellie Straily
Micaela Sulham
Rebecca Udell
Hans and Nancy Van Doornewaard
Michael Wiltshire
Phyllis Wolf
LaVerne Yamasaka
Evelyn Zuk

Meet the Park Century School Professional Advisory Board!

Park Century's Professional Advisory Board consists of carefully selected community professionals with expertise in a variety of fields who advise our administration on clinical and academic programs, community outreach opportunities, recruitment, alumni mentoring, and many other endeavors.

2019-2020 Advisory Board Members:

Reveta Franklin Bowers - Ms. Bowers is the former Administrator and Head of School for The Center for Early Education in Los Angeles, a consultant, and serves as chair of Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children use technology responsibly, safely, and effectively.

Max Brooks - Mr. Brooks is an internationally known author and speaker about his firsthand experience growing up with dyslexia. He is also a Park Century parent.

Jamie Lee Curtis - Ms. Curtis is an actress, author, and former PCS parent.

Rita Eichenstein, Ph.D. - Dr. Eichenstein specializes in pediatric neuropsychological evaluations, testing for learning disabilities and ADHD, and accommodating children with learning differences and ADHD.

Leah Ellenberg, Ph.D., M.D. - Dr. Ellenberg specializes in clinical neuropsychology.

Dr. Audrey Griesbach - Dr. Griesbach's practice is devoted entirely to the comprehensive evaluation and treatment of children with a wide variety of neuro-developmental disorders, including autism, cerebral palsy, genetic disorders, developmental and cognitive delays, learning differences like ADHD, and other behavioral disorders. Dr. Griesbach served on the board of the Westview School for children with learning and emotional challenges and was a founding board member of the WISH Charter Elementary School, which provides inclusive educational opportunities for children with special needs.

Karen Hellman-Fried - Karen Hellman-Fried is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and an Educational Therapist. She holds Master of Arts degrees in Clinical Psychology and Human Development as well as a Certificate in Educational Therapy. She has a private practice in psychotherapy and is Co-Director of the K&M Center, Inc., a learning center providing educational services to students ranging from four years old to college age.

Justin Hunt - Formerly a member of Park Century's Board of Trustees, Justin's service on the Board began in 2012, and he was Board President from 2013 to 2017. He is President of William Walters Company, a real estate investment and management firm, specializing in multi-family properties. He and his wife, Michelle, are graduates of the University of San Diego and have two children who both attended Park Century School. They currently reside in Jackson, Wyoming.

Anthony Jaffe - Anthony Jaffe is a Managing Director and head of CMBS Origination for J.P. Morgan's West Coast office in Los Angeles. He was previously head of CMBS Origination at Credit Suisse and Managing Director of Natixis Real Estate Capital. A PCS Alumni parent, Mr. Jaffe also served as a member of the Park Century Board of Trustees from 2011-2019.

Zeb Little, Ph.D., M.D. - Dr. Little is a Los Angeles-based psychiatrist.

Dr. Jayme Neiman-Kimel - Dr. Neiman-Kimel is a board-certified pediatric neuropsychologist and leading specialist in neuropsychological assessment for children and young adults. Over the last 20 years, Dr. Neiman-Kimel has built a practice that has provided services to schools and expert witness testimony, and she maintains a private clinical practice.

Kelly Priest - Ms. Priest is an ardent advocate for supporting the social-learning needs of children, teens, and adults. She is the founder of Kelly Priest & Associates, a resource for parents and teachers of children with mild to moderate social learning differences. She is a social-cognitive-development specialist, a faculty trainer, and parent educator.

Bruce Savett '69 - Mr. Savett is the principal and founder of Granite Peak Partners Inc, a commercial property brokerage firm with headquarters in Santa Barbara. A PCS alumnus, Mr. Savett was the third student enrolled in the school and the son of founding trustee Lou Savett.

Bennett Shaywitz, M.D. - Dr. Shaywitz is a leader in applying functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to understand the neurobiology of reading and dyslexia in children and adults. He is the Charles and Helen Schwab Professor of Pediatrics (Neurology) and the Co-Director of the Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity.

Gail Spindler - Ms. Spindler had a 45-year career at Park Century beginning as a classroom educator and retiring as Co-Director of the school in 2013.

Benjamin Sprague '90 - Ben Sprague is a PCS alum and son of former Board Chair Marianne Sprague. A former television producer and entertainment executive, Mr. Sprague was recently appointed CEO of the Earl Warren Showgrounds Board of the 19th District Agricultural Association, located in Santa Barbara.

Kearney N. Visser Ph.D. - Dr. Visser is a licensed clinical psychologist with a specialty in treating children, adolescents, and families. Dr. Visser is trained as a cognitive behavioral therapist.

Wendy Wachtell - Ms. Wachtell is the President and CEO of the Joseph P. Drown Foundation. The Foundation attempts to reflect directly the interests of founder Joseph Drown, focusing its resources on education, medical and scientific research, community, and health and social services. The Foundation's goal is to assist individuals in becoming successful, self-sustaining, contributing citizens, funding programs that break down barriers preventing a person from continuing to grow and learn.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Our Park Century community members make us proud every day- here's what some of them have been up to lately!

Interested in being featured in the next edition of Community Notes or know someone who should be? Send an email to alumninews@parkcenturyschool.org and tell us about your accomplishments, successes, or anything else you want to share. We can't wait to hear from you!

Robert Thibiant, Class of '17



PCS graduate Robert is living his dream! Currently on the varsity roster for Sierra Canyon School, Robert shares the court with high profile talents like Bronny James, and his team will play at the Staples Center for at least one game this season. Robert spends long hours training, and his motivated work ethic displays the unmistakable grit of a former PCS student. In addition to the hours he spends training and playing basketball, Robert is doing well academically and looking ahead to plan for college, where he'd like to major in business with an emphasis on sports management.



Lana Bogdanoff, Class of '17

Since graduating from PCS, Lana has taken Westmark by storm! Recently voted Vice President of the student body, Lana also serves as an 11th grade ambassador by giving parent tours, shadowing students interested in Westmark, and participating in Q&A panels during Open Houses. On top of her various leadership service, this past spring, Lana played the principal of Rydell High in Westmark's production of Grease. With six years of dance lessons under her belt, Lana currently dances for the Pretenders Studio "Dance for a Difference, Inc." an organization that raises funds for Meals on Wheels and other community needs. Most impressively, Lana has been able to juggle all of her interests without sacrificing focus on her academics - she is currently enrolled in honors English and history classes, and this past June, she received the Sophomore English Department Award.

Alumni Return to Motivate PCS Students

This fall, PCS has welcomed alumni speakers to our Monday Morning Assemblies who shared stories of how Park Century provided the foundation, tools, and confidence that laid the groundwork for their successes. These graduates explained their struggles with learning differences and answered any questions the students had about their particular experiences. We are so grateful for these visitors, who motivate our students by providing a living demonstration of unfettered possibility. Are you a PCS alum interested in coming back to address our student body? We'd love to hear from you!



Alex Chernoff, Class of '99

Alex discussed the anxiety he felt when transitioning to Park Century from his old school, and the dissipation of that anxiety as he gained the confidence and skills that prepared him for high school and beyond. Today, he works in post-production as a colorist, a job he loves that provides him many opportunities to travel and live in other parts of the world, most recently London.



Natasha Wachtel, Class of '08

After graduating from PCS with the foundation to succeed in high school while juggling academics with rigorous soccer practices, Natasha Wachtel received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Miami, and she currently works for Turner Sports. In her October address to our student body, she advised the kids, "Remember to be yourself."



Alejandro Gehry, Class of '92

Alejandro Gehry, a figurative artist and teacher at the highly esteemed LA County High School for the Arts, inspired students and faculty during our Monday Morning Assembly by sharing how PCS gave him the tools and self-confidence to ultimately thrive at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Panther Pics

Take a look at some of our favorite snapshots from this year at PCS, and make sure to follow us on Instagram @ParkCenturySchool and on Facebook to stay up to date!

