

## Intermediate Department

Pisgah's Intermediate Department is taking it's innovative program to the next level.

- Adjustments have been made to the schedule to **maximize time in the classroom**. Students will have a double block of Language Arts and the same teacher for Reading and English. This will reduce the movement to and from classes. All special's classes are in the afternoon and during the same time periods.
- **New discipline policies** are being outlined in the handbook, in recognition that students perform better in a consistent learning environment.
- Study Skills classes reach new heights! Teacher Jenny Keeton is excited to introduce **My Path to Classroom Success** portfolios for all fourth and fifth graders. The portfolios contain various study strategies and tools that students will learn throughout the year. The portfolios also encourage personal reflections on what students have learned and how well **they are applying what they have learned**. These portfolios will remain in the Study Skills Lab throughout the year. Parents are welcome to come by and look at their child's portfolio and they will be readily available during parent/teacher conferences. Fifth grade students will have their portfolios move with them to Middle School. This will remind them of concepts they have learned, so they may apply them more independently. Fourth graders will continue to add to their portfolios throughout fifth grade. *"I am excited to be able to provide students and parents a "study toolbox" that will help them reach their full academic potential,"* says Ms. Keeton.



## Additional Enhancements

- **Andy Trevers**, Director of Pisgah Sports, will teach **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Christian Education**. Andy has been teaching bible study small groups for K thru 18 yr olds for four years. He has also been a soccer coach for 20 years and led a 4th grade class last semester in spiritual leadership and team building. Andy has a huge passion for Christ and loves to work with children of all ages.
- **Teambuilding/Social Curriculum** will be implemented on a regular basis. Teachers will receive staff development instruction each month. This instruction will focus on a different team building activity/goal that will promote a positive student culture. Manners and character building will continue to be a focus. Alison Powell and Andrew Trevers will help orchestrate these programs for the Lower School
- **Homework policies** are being reviewed to ensure homework expectations are aligned within each grade level.



### Handbook Revision

The Lower School is in the process of revising and updating the current family handbook. Discipline policies and procedures as well as uniform information and other topics are being reviewed to make sure they clearly communicate the mission of the school. Parents and faculty members are serving on this committee. Updated handbooks will soon be available online.



College Prep  
Life Ready

Primary School News

from Head of Primary  
**Nancy Shaw**  
July 2009



Each day, it is a privilege to see your children discover, explore, and enjoy the wonders of learning. I often reflect on one of my favorite quotes:

**"The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn."** *John Lubbock*

It is my desire that every child at Mount Pisgah Christian School would be given the **"wish to learn."** This quote has always inspired me, for it urges us to work to inspire children, to give them the "gift" of learning. Pisgah is a place that not only seeks to make learning a way of life for it's students and faculty members, but also endeavors to be fresh and meaningful while staying true to it's mission. I am committed to ensuring that Pisgah remains a place that puts **children first** and in so doing, teaches and **encourages them to find the magic in learning**. The magic that makes them wish to learn and discover new and exciting things.

This year, as some of you know, we have had a few staffing changes in the Primary School. Scott Smith, Director of Faculty Recruitment, was instrumental in helping us secure the most outstanding employees in the field of education. Scott posts Mount Pisgah Christian School job openings on various websites and attends numerous job fairs. He collects resumes and applications and forwards only **the most qualified candidate** information to me. After receiving resumes, initial screening interviews are held to assess the applicants. If they pass through the screening interview, a more in-depth interview will follow. School administrators and teachers meet with the candidate and ask pre-determined questions and spend time getting acquainted with the applicant on a more personal level. Once a prospective employee successfully passes through this evaluation process, an interview is scheduled with the School President for final approval. This is the final step in the application/hiring process. As you can see, it is comprehensive and thorough.



These procedures are designed to find the most desirable employees for Mount Pisgah Christian School. Rest assured that the teachers, administrators and staff who work with your children each day, are passionately dedicated to bringing out the very best in your child.

After an extensive search, both locally, and nationally, I am pleased to announce that we have selected several outstanding individuals who will be joining our faculty this year. You will find detailed information about each one on the following pages. Please help me welcome them.

## Pisgah Team Updates

**Susan M. Brown** has been selected as the **Director of the Early School**. Susan has been associated with Pisgah for the past 20 years. She has served in the following capacities: Pre-School Children's Choir Leader, Pre-School Teacher, Christian Education teacher and Curriculum and Enrichment Coordinator for the Lower School, as well as United Methodist Church Lay Pastor, Women's Bible Study Leader, and Youth Leader. Susan also opened the first Christian Pre-school Full Day Program in Forsyth County. She has the skill, ability, and experience to be a successful Director for our Early School Program. Susan is a highly supportive administrator. While working with her, I have been continually impressed with her driving commitment to excellence. She is uncompromising in her quest for quality educational opportunities. She never loses sight of the children and their needs. Susan is married to Joe Brown and they have 3 children. Their youngest son, David, is a current senior at Pisgah's Upper School.



**Charmaine Botha** has been promoted to Pisgah **Early School Half Day Assistant Director**. Charmaine has been a valued member of the Pisgah faculty for many years. Her positive attitude and love of children are reflected in the outstanding quality of the programs she has developed for the school. Previously, she taught pre-school for 13 years and started the King's Kids Pre-school/Kindergarten Program. She has been instrumental in developing Bibleland, the Kindergarten Christian Education program. She also developed the Alpha to Omega celebration that is held each year to honor Pisgah's senior class. Charmaine is married to Gert Botha and they have 3 daughters, all of whom graduated from Pisgah.

**Lauren Sheehan** will join our **Kindergarten** team. Lauren has been teaching Junior Kindergarten at the Presbyterian Day School in Memphis, Tennessee. Lauren brings with her a wealth of knowledge related to gender education. Having taught in an all boys' school, Lauren is familiar with techniques used to engage each learner. Lauren has provided staff development in the areas of nutrition, character education, and handwriting. She is an active member in her church and she has traveled to Belize, Argentina, and Africa to serve on various mission teams.



**Erin Fink** has been selected to serve as the **Primary School Music Teacher**. Erin just completed six years at The Boston Conservatory, where she majored in Music Education, receiving vocal training in the areas of classical, musical theater, and folk music. She has a vast array of musical training, including singing in five languages and playing the piano, strings, woodwinds, hand bells, and brass instruments. She enjoys singing, swimming, and drama productions. Erin says, "I am very excited to begin working with the students at Pisgah. I believe that our Heavenly Father has given each of us the gift of music and it is my job to help each of the students find that gift and learn how to use it. We will create some wonderful memories in the music room that will last a lifetime!"

We are happy to welcome these new members to our faculty. All four are well qualified in their particular teaching disciplines and I am sure they will further enhance our exceptionally fine faculty. Please pray for them as they begin a new and exciting adventure at Mount Pisgah Christian School.

### Lower School Staffing Updates for 2009-10

Lynn Kornegay will be teaching Second Grade.

Jenny Terpstra will be teaching Fourth Grade English and Reading.

Heather Parker will be teaching Fifth Grade English and Reading.

Laura Henderson will be teaching Fifth Grade Math.

## Happy Lab

### Science comes ALIVE in the new Happy Mayer Science Lab!

What child doesn't love exciting hands-on learning? This year the brand new "Happy Lab" lab will give Pre-school and Lower School students an opportunity to get up close and personal with the fascinating world of science. The new lab is being prepared, the equipment has been selected and ordered, and we're excited about this new curriculum enhancement. Recently, we asked our students what they were looking forward to next year. **Ansley Emerson**, a rising 2<sup>nd</sup> grader, told us she'd like to learn more about lightning bugs (she's been catching them in the backyard at night!) She also said, "I'd like to learn about my skeleton and what makes my body work." Luckily for Ansley, the new science lab will be equipped to help her discover more about these topics and many others.



### Early School students are in for TREAT!

Four year old pre-school and K-Prep classes will participate in Lower School Specials this year. Music, Library/Media Center, Physical Education, Art, Spanish and Computer will now be part of Pisgah's pre-school program. The Specials' Teachers have a set curriculum to enrich the learning experience and prepare students for Kindergarten. The two and three year old classes will enjoy music with Erin Fink, the Lower School Music Teacher. They will also continue to have their popular Bible Time with Mrs. Patti Pease. We are blessed to be able to offer this comprehensive extension to the pre-school curriculum and are confident the students will greatly benefit. Early School Full Day students are going to Live, Play and Learn like Champions. Our school year begins August 3rd with much excitement. Coach Daryl Brooks will lead our three and four year olds in Pisgah PE. In addition, individual Bible time and Music instruction will be added to the two, three, and four year old classes. For parents, Renweb is your new best friend. Check it out for Pisgah's latest updated information.

## Reading Series



Pisgah's Lower School has adopted a new reading series to produce **LIFELONG READERS AND WRITERS!**

How are curriculum decisions made? It's a comprehensive and time consuming task. The first step is to assess the current curriculum and determine the academic focus for the adoption. Once the curriculum area has been selected, a committee is formed. The committee reviews material from various vendors and orders sample copies for examination. Criteria for selection is determined, the committee begins the process of choosing the most appropriate

books/subjects for our student population, and teachers are trained to implement the program. This year, our committee selected **Treasures**, a MacMillan/McGraw-Hill Reading series. As described by the publisher, **Treasures** is a research-based, comprehensive Reading Language Arts program for grades K-6 that gives educators the resources they need to help all students succeed through high quality literature, explicit instruction, and ample practice.