

PACA NEWS

June 2013 • Our Mission: To nurture and develop young people, through quality education rooted in biblical truth, who impact their world through Christ.



Important Dates:

August 1, 2013

6th - 12th Grade - 8:00 - 12:00 pm

August 2, 2013

Kindergarten - 5th Grade All Day
Preschool Orientation

August 5, 2013

Preschool's 1st Day of School

Pan American Christian Academy
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FIVE-YEAR RECOMMENDATION FOR PACA ACCREDITATION APPROVED WITH ADVANCeD AND ACSI!

Word from Mr. Robin Rugg, Superintendent, and Miss Jennifer Kierstead, Elementary Principal

Thank you so much to the many people who have invested in this process – teachers, administrators, Academic Development Team members, board members, PACA workers, students and parents.

This was a process in which all of us were able to play a part in. From student, parent and teacher surveys to committee meeting times to interviews with the team while they were on campus – all were evidence of our love and desire for PACA to continue to be a great school.

The External Review Team made up of four international educators were on campus from April 21-24, 2013. They conducted 48 interviews (formal and informal) with school personnel, thirty-two with students and eight with parents of students. Twenty-four formal meetings were held involving members of the school personnel, twenty students and nineteen parents.

During the team's time on campus, they had a chance to be in and out of classrooms, talk to school personnel, meet with different groups of people and eat in the cafeteria.

The most significant theme that came out of their report was that "Pan American Christian Academy's philosophy, mission, and vision, as the Christian purpose and identity of the Academy clearly permeates all aspects of the schools' program, services, and personnel. The school is marked by a profound commitment to ministry within a Christ-

centered world and life view and to the integration of faith and content in the instruction-learning process."

Through this process with ACSI and AdvancED, there are three important terms of which to be aware. Powerful Practices are things we are doing well. Opportunities for Improvement are things that we can consider for improvement.

Required Actions are things that we need to complete before our next accreditation visit in five years.

We were encouraged that we received many powerful practices and also knew that we had some things to make better so we weren't surprised by the opportunities for improvement/required actions. Just as we encourage our students to grow and develop in their studies and life, we realize that we need to do the same as we better ourselves and PACA.

Here are two reports: [External Review](#) from AdvancED and the [External Review Addendum](#) from ACSI. To access these reports click on the bolded report name to read more.

Again, thank you so much for your help, support and encouragement through this accreditation process. We will continue to move ahead in the coming year with our continuous school improvement plan and seek ways to make our school stronger.



Accreditation Team (Left to Right): Dr. David Wells, Dawn Monzon, Tim Thompson, and Scott Frost, included in the group Mr. Rugg and Miss Kierstead.



Even during an accreditation visit there is time for old college friends to say hi to each other. Pictured here are Houghton College Alumni, Dr. David Wells and Dr. Paul Clark (parent of PACA alumni and former school board member).

PRESCHOOL LIFE, A BUSY SEMESTER.



Our pre-school students have had a busy semester! Sr. Gilvan, the school's gardener, and Dona Fabiana, the school's nutritionist, taught us how to prepare a garden on our playground. We planted radishes, arugula, basil, parsley, kale, and green onions. We were excited to tend our garden and watch it grow and to even harvest some of our "crop" to eat.

At Easter, we had the privilege to participate in the school food drive for our friends at Lar Tia Edna. We prayed for our friends and were excited to make a graph of the kilograms of food we brought to share with them. We also learned about the true meaning of Easter and celebrated Jesus's sacrifice on the cross for us and His resurrection! We enjoyed breaking bread with one another to remember what Jesus has done for us.

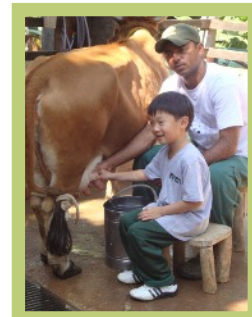


PRESCHOOL LIFE, A BUSY SEMESTER OF SPECIAL READERS, INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AND “FAZENDINHA” VISIT.

Some other highlights of our semester were participating in the International Festival and having some special readers come to teach us about fairy tales and nursery rhymes. Mr. Dewey told us about the Frog Prince, Mr. Rugg read The Cinderella Penguin, Miss Kierstead shared Little Red Riding Hood, and Dona Marta taught us some lessons from Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We also had another special guest that came to teach us how to make mini pizzas! Our friend's mother, Mrs. Morales, came to show us how to make dough and add the sauce and cheese to our delicious pizzas. We love cooking lessons that include sampling what we make and we ate those pizzas all up!



One of our favorite activities this semester was a field trip to the Fazendinha. We were able to learn about lots of different kinds of farm animals and what they eat and where they live. We even got to help by feeding some goats and sheep. We loved riding the horses and ponies and got a chance to milk a cow! We all had a great time!



BRAZILIAN STUDIES - DEPARTAMENTO BRASILEIRO

EXCURSÕES, CONGRESSO, E SIMULADOS...



Excursão do 2nd e 3rd grades.

No dia 23 de maio, o 2nd e 3rd grades foram ao SESC Interlagos para visitar uma exposição sobre a energia que provém dos alimentos. Após aprenderem mais sobre o ponto de vista científico e também como nossa vida cotidiana e nossos hábitos alimentares influenciam na produção de energia para o nosso corpo, os alunos se divertiram com jogos e caça ao tesouro.



CESPE

Os alunos do 5º, 9º e 11º ano fizeram o teste de proficiência em língua portuguesa nos dias 7, 8 e 9 de maio. O teste foi aplicado em mais 7 escolas da AASB (*Association of American Schools in Brazil*). PACA é membro da *Association of American Schools in Brazil*.



Desenvolvimento de Professores

A Cairn University (antiga *Philadelphia Biblical University*) ofereceu um curso de Mestrado em Educação que aconteceu nas dependências da Paca. Durante três anos, durante as férias de janeiro e junho, um significativo grupo de educadores de nossa escola teve o privilégio de fazer parte desse "cohort" do Brasil. Os seguintes professores são os "mestrandos": Ana Cláudia Soares; Ana Lúcia Soldi, Brenda Stockment, Chad Anderson; Christine DeBoer; Claryssa Tomaz; Eliana Rocha e Renata Santos. Agradecemos à Paca todo apoio e ajuda durante esses três anos. Louvamos ao Senhor por mais essa vitória! A Ele toda honra e toda glória!



Congresso da ACSI

Nos dias 30 e 31 de maio todo corpo docente e administrativo da Paca participou do Congresso de Educadores Cristãos da ACSI/Brasil que comemora 10 anos. O tema do Congresso foi: Conduzindo os Alunos na Verdade.

Muitos de nossos professores participaram como palestrantes, líderes de grupos de interesse e do grupo de louvor. Foram dois dias muito proveitosos de comunhão, serviço e desenvolvimento profissional.

Simulado do FUVEST

Os alunos do 11th e 12th fizeram o simulado da FUVEST, incluindo redação, preparado e posteriormente corrigido pelo cursinho CPV. Esse exame foi organizado e elaborado pelo cursinho CPV. Os alunos tiveram a oportunidade

de vivenciar tanto a administração do tempo, quanto o grau de dificuldade da Prova. O cursinho disponibilizou excelentes relatórios com diferentes gráficos demonstrativos dos resultados. O resultado já está nas mãos dos alunos.

A decorative border with a repeating floral pattern of leaves and flowers in black and white surrounds the central text area.

Sarau do 8º ano

Neste último bimestre, a turma do 8º ano, EF-II, trabalhou com a obra *A Moreninha*, de Joaquim Manuel de Macedo.

Após a leitura, pesquisas sobre a sociedade do séc. 19 e atividades em projeto escrito, dividiram-se em 9 *Grupos de trabalho (GT's)* e, com muito empenho, organizaram um *sarau* nos moldes da época da obra trabalhada: interpretação de trechos românticos, declamação da *Canção do Exílio* (Gonçalves Dias), figurino, músicas, maquiagem, “comes e bebes” e, é claro, o baile... Realmente, o encerramento do projeto deu-se com *chave de ouro!!!* Parabéns, 8º ano!!!

Uma tarde na Toscana

No último dia 10 de maio realizamos uma homenagem muito especial à aquelas que não medem esforços, abrem mão de sonhos e estão prontas a se sacrificarem dedicando suas vidas aos seus filhos .

Essa tarde na Toscana foi prepara com muito carinho para nossas queridas mães! Onde puderam desfrutar de momentos de comunhão, diversão e muita emoção.



Facing my Fears

by Hannah Hayashi
Student in Middle School

Every year the sixth and seventh graders go on a retreat, and this year it was our turn. I was worried sick; the night before I hardly slept. To get even worse I almost forgot my sleeping bag, and I was late! That's pretty bad way to start a retreat. What I didn't know is that I was about to face my fears.

Everyone has their fears and phobias, some afraid of spiders, others of the dark, my biggest fear is height. Well, this year I told myself that I would try something new. When we arrived I suddenly started to regret that goal. The reason for that was because our camp had an enormous ropes course.

Time passed very quickly having fun with my friends. What I didn't realize was that my turn on the ropes was close. I put on the security rope and protective gear, and went up the ladder onto the

tree. I looked down, as my stomach churned, but there was no way back now. My P.E. teacher was behind me which made me feel a bit more secure. I took a step after another wobbling and shaking through the course. The beginning was pretty easy, but the hardest part still awaited.

In the middle of the ropes course there was only one rope to put my feet on, which made it scary. I had ropes to hold on to, but I was still terrified. I was about 20 feet off the ground. It felt like walking on a tightrope. My throat was dry and my eyes wide, while mumbling prayers to God.

As unbelievable as it sounds, I made it to the end. It feels good to accomplish new things; it feels like a new me. Next time anyone asks me to join them in the ropes course I won't think twice to answer.

AP BIO TRIP



The tenth grade had an excellent trip to Ilha do Cardoso as part of their Biology and Geografia classes. Accompanied by Mrs. Zuercher, Prof. Silvano and Mr. Dewey they hiked along beaches and trails investigating the Atlantic Rainforest, Mangrove Swamp, sandy forest and other ecosystems. An invertebrate sampling in a mountain stream provided dozens of critters to be observed and identified. Local guides taught about medicinal uses of plants, island culture, and threats to the ecosystems. The highlight for many was walking on the beach at night and seeing the glowing bioluminescent organisms in the shallow water.

The trip also provided for a wonderful time of class bonding. Hanging out on the boat, walking on the beach and fighting off the bugs helped deepen friendships and class unity. Students led moments of worship under the tree by the water.



Festival Internacional Celebração das Nações

Cultura Comida Diversão



International Festival Celebrating the Nations

Culture Food Fun



Despite the rainy weather, PACA hosted over 1,072 visitors at the school's annual international food festival. The profit of this event was donated to raise awareness and funds for a wide variety of non-profit organizations. For several years we have partnered with these groups as they help rescue street kids, provide a safe refuge for children from the city's most dangerous favelas, empower youth to make a fresh start, and break the chains of addiction.

The eight organizations that each received R\$1.829,00 from this event were Casa ABBA, Casa Esperança, Arca das Crianças, Associação Restauração, Associação Águia, Lar Efrata, Lar Tia Edna, and Associação Construindo Para Cristo. Each organization also shared about their work at the opening program.

We started the day with a special program by our students, showcasing their musical talents. Afterwards, our guests enjoyed delicious food from 12 different countries (Korea, Japan, China, Italy, Switzerland, India, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Chile,

Brazil and United States). Games and prizes were available for children as parents enjoyed eating with friends. During the event there were special acts to entertain the guests, such as the America Morena band (latin music), Christian body worship teams (Igreja Água Viva and Igreja Han In), and even a puppeteer (Roberto Maranhão and family).

There are many people, corporations and churches to thank for making this event successful. All of our 345 students, 40 teachers, 70 parents and many other volunteers contributed to make this event a true celebration of God's diversity and creativity of the human race. We want to specifically thank the following organizations for their donations and participation: American Cafeteria, Bann Química, Dalde do Brasil, Doce Vida, Gênio Tecnologia, Grupo Atalla, Igreja Água Viva, Igreja Han-In, Igreja Joo Eun, Igreja Missionária Oriental, Igreja SINAM, Igreja Unida, Macarrão Alfa, Master Field Paintball, Pepsico, Saborama, Seeker Tecnologia, SP Media, Trinità Gastronomia, UG Pão Natural Caeiro, and UNISA.



National Honor Society Members

Seniors: Jill, Thierry, Nathan, Ariel, Jenny, Alexandra, Alyssa

Juniors: Angelica, Christopher, Jun

Sophomores: Amy, Pedro, Eduardo, André, Sandra, Rachel, Jane, William

The National Honor Society (NHS) is USA's premier organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. More than just an honor roll, NHS serves to honor those students who demonstrate excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, and character. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1921.

New members are selected by the school's faculty and must maintain a minimum GPA requirement of 3.5 for a whole year.

