



December 2019

Admin News

Nurturing Hearts • Developing Minds • Educating for Eternity

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Important Dates

January 22, 2020

- 1st Day of School for All Grades

February 15, 2020

- Candlelight Dinner

February 24-26, 2020

- No School: Carnaval

April 4, 2020

- International Festival

April 10, 2020

- No School: Good Friday

April 13, 2020

- No School: Easter

April 25, 2020

- Science Fair & Art Show

60 Years of Serving God through Christian Education

by Robin Rugg, Superintendent

In June 1959, the need for an American Christian day school was identified by a group of North American Missionaries in São Paulo. Through much prayer and a concerted effort, the São Paulo Christian Day School opened on February 8, 1960 with a little more than twenty students.

Over the past 60 years, it has been truly amazing to see how God has worked in and through PACA. That first school of 20 odd students has grown into a school of 344 students. What once was a school located on the "outskirts" of the city, next to Congonhas Airport, has become a well-developed sprawling campus with incredible facilities and learning spaces and a beautiful, green campus. The school's Board of Directors, administration and staff have worked diligently these past 60 years to stay true to that original vision to offer a Christ-centered, quality education.

Thank you so much to all of you who have been a part of these past 60 years with PACA. To the parents who have partnered with the school, seeking to raise up children to become men and women who seek to follow Christ. To the students who have been such an incredible blessing as we have seen you grow physically, mentally, emotionally and most importantly spiritually. You are the reason PACA has existed these past 6 decades. And finally, to everyone who has served at PACA through years of faithful service, your example of sacrificial love toward the community that we serve is an example to this day.

May God richly bless all of you during this Christmas season.

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Getting a head start in High School and an edge in College!

The Advance Placement (AP) program gives students the chance to tackle college-level work while they're still in high school and earn college credit and placement. Taking AP courses in high school could give you an advantage in college by letting you: stand out to colleges, earn college credit, develop college level skills, and save money and time. Research consistently shows that AP students are better prepared for college than students who do not take AP. They are more likely to enroll and stay in college, do well in their classes, and graduate in four years.

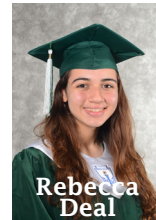
We want to recognize several of our PACA students who have demonstrated outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple AP Exams.

Our academic record is a major reason why we receive college visits at PACA. According to our Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Kuhnast (Class of 1987), we have received 39 college visits this semester. Colleges from the USA, Canada and Brazil are interested in recruiting our students.

We are very grateful to God for the gifted students He has brought to our campus that desire to expand their educational experience by taking AP Courses. We are also blessed to have such dedicated teachers that invest their time and energy preparing our students. Special thank you to last year's AP teachers: Mr. Zuercher, Dr. Dewey, Mr. Stockment, Professora Leda, Mrs. Swisher, Mrs. Pritchett Ramos da Silva and Mr. Davis (Class of 2008).

AP Scholar with Distinction:

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.



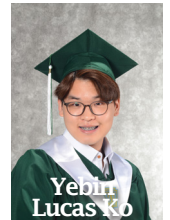
Rebecca Deal



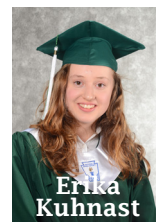
Hannah Hayashi



Bruno Kim



Yebin Lucas Ko



Erika Kuhnast



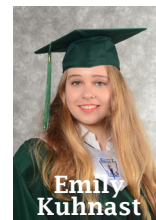
David Lee



Julia Pai

AP Scholar with Honor:

Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.



Emily Kuhnast



Nicolle Cetertick



David Lee



Sophia Santos

AP Scholar:

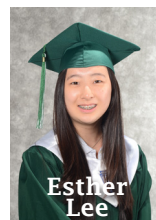
Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.



Jack Bloomer



Karen Hoshino



Esther Lee



Ben Woods



Rafael Yum

39 College Visits this semester!

Between individual visits, group visits, and fairs, we had approximately 39 colleges and universities come speak to our students. These colleges came from the United States, Canada, Europe, and the United Kingdom.

Here is the list of all the college visits:

Alvernia University (USA)
Bentley University (USA)
Central Washington University (USA)
Chapman (USA)
Colorado State University (USA)
Dennison (USA)
EU Business school (Europe)
Fordham (USA)
Furman (USA)
Hult Business School (UK)
Jacobs University (Germany)
Johnson and Wales (USA)
Middlebury (USA)
Northeastern (USA)

Notre Dame (USA)
NYU Shanghai (China)
Pepperdine (USA)
Point Park University (USA)
Purdue (USA)
Rollins (USA)
Ryerson University (Canada)
Sarah Lawrence (USA)
School of Visual Arts (USA)
Sewanee (USA)
SMU (USA)
Syracuse University (USA)
Temple University (USA)
Tulane (USA)
UC San Diego (USA)
University Colorado, Boulder - (USA)
University of British Columbia (Canada)
University of Calgary (Canada)
University of Charleston (USA)
University of Cincinnati (USA)
University of Hertfordshire (UK)
University of Richmond (USA)
University of Toronto (Canada)
University of Tulsa (USA)
Washington and Lee (USA)

Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program

Congratulations to David Lee and Sophia Santos for placing among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.



"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success."

6,240 NEW BOOKS!

Scholastic Guided Reading

This last semester 6,240 new books arrived at PACA, completing our Scholastic Guided Reading program that is used in Kindergarten through 8th grade. Guided Reading is a research based, differentiated approach to developing reading proficiency in students. Guided reading allows teachers to work with small groups of students, reinforcing reading strategies and problem-solving skills while reading texts that are on their level. In Kindergarten through second grade, the focus is on learning to read, and third grade and above is focused on reading to learn.

PACA's goal is to encourage and foster a desire in our students to dig deeper into every text they are given and ultimately that these skills will transfer to their reading, understanding, and studying of the Bible.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/17-18/what-is-guided-reading/>



Building Future Leaders of Character

The Social-Emotional Learning initiative started in the Elementary School featured these character traits this semester: Courage, Obedience and Loyalty.

This program has been developed to help our children grow in their social and emotional skills. Each session provides fun, engaging, positive, practical, and research-based lessons that will help students build the character and competence needed for success.

Students participated in three 4-week rotations this semester; the topics were Courage, Obedience, and Loyalty. Each rotation begins with an assembly, where students hear a Bible story related to the topic, sing a song written by Mr. Wesley, participate in games and activities, and practice a definition and the 5 "I Will" statements.

Small groups have been designed to allow students to continue interacting with the topic, while deepening their relationship with a few other students and their small group leader. For more information and resources about this program, please visit: <http://www.characterfirsteducation.com/c/curriculum.php>.



Model United Nations

No dia 7 de dezembro, comparecemos ao MiniMUN realizado na St. Paul's para que os estudantes de MUN participassem de uma simulação com estudantes de outras escolas, debatendo a respeito de temas internacionais relevantes e negociando entre si, representando diferentes países com suas posições políticas peculiares.

Nossa delegação foi formada por: Gabriella Ramos representando a China no Security Council, debatendo sobre a tensão entre Irã e Arábia Saudita; o Samuel Araújo representando o deputado federal Carvalho Sobrinho no comitê histórico do Brasil em 1964; o Tovia Woods representando a antiga União Soviética no Historical Security Council sobre a invasão soviética do Afeganistão e Leonardo Almeida e Timothy Charleton representaram o Brasil no ECOSOC sobre os incêndios na Amazônia.

Os estudantes puderam simular um ambiente diplomático, discutindo com os países a respeito dos tópicos mencionados, apresentaram soluções, debateram e tiveram que negociar para que suas propostas fossem votadas pela maioria dos países presentes, e assim aprovadas.



Tovia Woods, União Soviética

Os alunos aprenderam na prática a defender posições e ideias, argumentar a favor delas e negociar em prol do melhor cenário possível para os interesses do país representado.

As aulas foram voltadas totalmente para simulações como essas, durante o semestre, compreenderam o funcionamento dos comitês das Nações Unidas, os procedimentos devidos nos debates e a como apresentar ideias e defendê-las de maneira diplomática. Alguns temas que foram debatidos em sala de aula foram os escolhidos para a conferência, portanto os estudantes estavam bem atualizados.

AWARDS:

Tovia Woods – Best Delegate
Gabriella Ramos – Honorable
mention, verbal commendation

Students Reveal: **The New Classrooms are Bigger!**

PACA Announces Project to Design 21st Century Classrooms



Queremos agradecer todos os pais e alunos pelo apoio no projeto do “Walkathon” desse ano, arrecadamos mais de R\$116.000,00. O foco este ano é reformar quatro salas de aula e os dois banheiros na ala do Ensino Fundamental I. É um projeto de reforma que melhorará o aprendizado de nossos alunos com iluminação sustentável, mais conforto térmico e melhoria na acústica de cada ambiente. Já iniciamos as obras!

Os alunos percorreram um total de 4.593 voltas, que equivale a 1.470 quilômetros!

Estejam orando, pois o cronograma é bem apertado para deixarmos esse projeto pronto para o começo das aulas. A obra está sendo gerenciada pelo escritório Sete-Cinco Arquitetura, que projetou esses novos ambientes educacionais.

As novas salas de aula foram projetadas para incluir:

1. Móveis Modernos e Flexíveis que promovem um aprendizado mais colaborativo e criativo.
2. Salas mais silenciosas e termicamente confortáveis com janelas duplas deslizantes e novo forro acústico, o que ajuda na leitura e no estudo independente dos alunos.
3. Cores mais brilhantes e vibrantes com iluminação mais adequada que estimulam a atividade cerebral. Segundo as pesquisas mais atuais na área de educação, o equilíbrio de cores claras e brilhantes colaboram para o aprendizado e bem-estar do aluno.

