

head of school



Early spring at Prep is the season of tryouts, elections, and competitions. It's an exciting time, but also a time of nervous energy. Students and parents anxiously await results—hoping for the best, but also aware of the possibility that tough news can be around the corner. Last month's *PrepNotes* included some helpful thoughts from Prep parent Melissa Ridgway on parenting our kids through disappointing times. Many times over the last month I have reflected on how we as parents should handle these difficult times. We have family crisis plans in place for major disasters, but do we have them for unexpected disappointments and surprising setbacks?

When my son Michael was a Prep student, I was serving as the senior high student council sponsor. Michael really wanted to serve on the student council, and, in my completely biased opinion (I was, after all, his mom), I thought that he would be an *outstanding* leader for his class. Each year, from the seventh grade through the twelfth grade, Michael ran for student council, and each year he lost. I came to dread the night when election results were announced. There were certainly times that I disagreed with the results, and I felt extreme hurt for my son.

Naturally, Michael learned important lessons from these experiences. He developed "tougher skin," which continues to serve him well. I watched him reach out to others who faced setbacks along the way, and he matured into a young man much earlier than he would have had the road always been easy.

In our quest to fine-tune how we, as parents, handle these difficult situations with our children, I offer these suggestions:

- We have to remind our children of their successes.
- We must be willing to relate our personal disappointments to our children and explain to them how other opportunities turned out to be better.
- We must be willing to give our children the gift of time. One suggestion is to plan a special treat, being careful that this is not an expensive undertaking. Doing something together that costs nothing or that is less than \$20 is a good idea.
- We must help the disappointed child find something to do for someone else. This could include raking leaves, sweeping a garage, babysitting, tutoring, or writing a letter to a person your child admires or to someone less fortunate than your child.
- Most importantly, we must remind our children that the most important time in their lives is not as a teenager. This is a time when they may not have skills that are important to their peers. There is life after high school!

Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts." It is my desire to work with students and parents to ensure a preeminent experience at Prep through the difficult times.

Susan R. Lindsay
Head of School

pat news *by Lisa Lamb, PAT President*

Have I told you lately that I love you? So many folks – Prep and non-Prep parents – have asked when I will complete my term as PAT President as though it were some sort of prison sentence. I can say with absolute honesty this experience has been a joy. Watching our parents serve our faculty and Prep community and observing the sacrificial commitment of our teachers, administrators and staff have been a privilege and an honor. Participating with you in this organization has been one of the highlights of my life. Let me say thank you now for your tireless efforts and your words of encouragement. I don't make this organization work – it is a tremendous group effort! (*continued on page 3*)

board of trustees

by Duane Dewey, Chairman

Greetings from the Jackson Prep Board of Trustees in 2008. We pray that you had a blessed Christmas season and a very restful break from the routine. The year is off to a great start, and the campus is full of activity. In the last issue of *PrepNotes*, you learned a bit about the makeup of your Board of Trustees. In this issue, I would like to give you more information about the role of this group of dedicated individuals as it relates to the life of our school.

The primary focus of an independent school Board involves governance, financial oversight, strategic and long-range planning, and evaluation of the Head of School. Activities that are undertaken on an annual basis include approval of the school's budget and tuition levels, oversight of the school's endowment fund, planning and use of capital funds and facility planning. Additionally, the Board focuses on interaction with the Head of School in annual goal setting, evaluation of the year and other issues that are unique to the Head of School. In any given year, the Board of Trustees may also focus on and address issues that invariably arise. An example of a unique issue currently being addressed by the Board is long-range strategic planning, which is a requirement for school accreditation.

It is also important to note the things on which an independent school board should not focus. Issues of day-to-day management of the school remain with the Head of School and the school administration. These items involving daily operation of the school include faculty-related matters, coaching issues, student discipline, school schedules and other things that are part of ongoing school operations.

As always, we thank you for your commitment to Jackson Prep and the great investment you have made in the future of your children. Let us know when we can help you.

junior high news

by *Trudy Powers, Head of Junior High*

8TH AND 9TH GRADE STANDARDIZED TESTING

Ninth grade students took the PSSS test on Tuesday, January 29, while eighth grade students took the Explore achievement tests on Wednesday, January 30. Test results will be mailed home in the Spring.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE 08-09 HONORS PROGRAM

Information regarding the Honors program will be mailed to seventh and eighth grade students the first week of February. Seventh grade students will have the opportunity this spring to apply for Honors Algebra I and/or Honors Physical Science for the upcoming year. Eighth and ninth grade students will be able to apply for Honors English or Honors Physical Science. Informational meetings for parents and students interested in these programs will be held Tuesday, February 19, and Wednesday, February 20, at 3:30 in the Guyton Lyceum. The Honors Math and Honors Science meeting will be held on the 19th, while the Honors English meeting will be held on the 20th. These meetings will be open to all interested parents and students, but attendance at these meetings is not required for parents or students interested in applying for any honors program.

SEVENTH GRADE ACT PREPARATION WORKSHOP

On February 8, all seventh graders who signed up to take the February ACT through the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) will meet in the Guyton Lyceum during fourth period for a Preparation Workshop. Students are reminded to eat lunch during homeroom period and to bring all necessary materials to the workshop.

ALA-LA-MISS TESTING

On February 19, a select group of seventh graders and eighth graders will take the ALA-LA-MISS math test during either first or second period. They will compete with students from Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Awards will be given to students with the highest scores at the Junior High Honors Forum in May.

MATHCOUNTS

On February 26, Prep will compete in the Mississippi School for Math and Science (MSMS) annual math tournament to be held in Columbus. Prep will take eight students from each grade (8-12) to compete in their current math area and on ciphering against over 700 students from twenty-five schools. Prep has won this competition for more than ten consecutive years. Good luck math students!

NATIONAL JR. HONOR SOCIETY/ CHI ALPHA MU

New candidates for membership in the National Junior Honor Society will be inducted in the Jackson Prep Chapter on February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Guyton Lyceum. Membership is based on a 93 grade point average in academic courses; leadership; service to school and community; character; and citizenship. Immediately following the NJHS ceremony, Chi Alpha Mu, a national junior high math honorary society, will conduct an induction ceremony in the Lyceum. Candidates are named in early February and are notified by mail.

SPELLING BEE

Three Prep students will compete in the MPSEA District III Spelling Bee on Thursday, February 21, at Christ Covenant School in Ridgeland. For the first time, Prep will have a sixth-grade competitor. Representing the sixth grade will be Taylor Zhang, and her alternate will be Frances Lee. Seventh grade speller will be Mary Morgan Haire, with Sarah Santucci as her alternate. Mallory McLemore will represent Prep's eighth grade, with Katherine Thiel as her alternate. Spellers who place first, second, or third in the district bee will advance to the MPSEA Overall Spelling Bee on Tues-

day, April 15, at First Presbyterian Day School in Jackson. Mrs. Gayle Ford is the Prep spelling bee sponsor. Good luck, spellers!

JH CHEERLEADER INFORMATIONAL MEETING

On February 5, at 3:15 in the Guyton Lyceum, there will be a mandatory meeting for girls who are trying out for junior high cheerleader and one of their parents. In order to try out, each girl must have one parent to attend the meeting with her. The junior high cheerleading clinic is March 3-6. Guidelines will be provided at the meeting.

JUNIOR HIGH SPIRIT DANCE TEAM

Current seventh and eighth grade girls interested in participating on next year's Spirit Dance Team should attend a MANDATORY meeting on March 26 at 3:15 in the Guyton Lyceum. A parent must attend with each girl. The Spirit dance clinic will be held April 14-18 at 3:30-5:00, and April 21-24 at 3:30-5:00.

GEOGRAPHY BEE

During the week of January 14, all seventh grade students participated in the 2008 Geography Bee sponsored by National Geographic. After completing a written test, a group of 26 students was selected to participate in the second round. The second round consisted of an oral bee of six rounds of questions. The following students were the participants: Hollis Burrow, Wirt Dunbar, Evelyn Field, Caroline Garraway, Hayden Guynes, Allen Holiman, Michael Lewis, Charles McEuen, Patrick Mink, Cossar Morgan, Alex Moyers, Keavy Noblin, Julian Owen, Chandler Pride, Harrison Putt, Justin Renfrow, Sarah Santucci, Bailey Smith, Wic Smith, Summer Stewart, Robert Tramel, Porter Walters, Nick Weaver, Chuck Wehr, Rachel Wilkinson, and Wilson Williams. The third round produced the winner of the 2008 Bee, Sarah Santucci. Sarah has now taken a written test to qualify her for the state bee. Robert Tramel and Charles McEuen placed second and third respectively.

high school news

by *Luke Nealey, Head of Senior High*

It only takes one glimpse of the monthly calendar on the website to know that there is something going on every day and some days more is happening than can be imagined. Between all these events, games and meetings, we have school for a minimum of 175 days (accreditation requirement). Our faculty is very possessive about these 175 days. They are evaluated by me and themselves concerning how completely they can teach each course in this time. They teach bell to bell, Monday through Friday, and term on term. The faculty as a whole expects this of their colleagues and the administration expects it of all faculty members. It's how excellence is achieved in our classrooms.

While all classes have some ebb and flow to them, even fun or lighter days are planned to support the curriculum. Certainly both students and teachers have better days than others. When a student misses class, he/she may miss the class when that epiphanic moment occurs when the subject suddenly makes sense. It might be a class where the students ask the perfect questions to bring out the teacher's optimal explanation. It might be the day when the class understands why a teacher could have so much passion for what had seemed so dull the day before. Idealistic? Yes. Reality? Yes, again.

All of us here in the senior high really care about what we do and the students we do it for. We really care about both the content of our subjects and also about the experience that each student has in our classroom. One of the reasons for the change of schedule and the addition of the directed study period was to eliminate the taking of classroom time for other activities. We, as a faculty, value that time with our subjects and our students. We know that all our students have to miss school at times for any number of obligations and appointments, but we hope that these are kept to a minimum. The time spent with students is the reason we all do this job. We want to teach every one of them, and we want them in our classroom every day it is possible for them to be here.

(continued from page 1)

Now that school has resumed, it is time to strap on your seatbelts and hang on for the spring semester ride. As Reta Haire, our faculty liaison, made clear at our meeting in January, there is a plethora of events, academic and extra-curricular, going on at Prep from now until May. PAT and Young Life will team up this month to host four Parenting of Teens forums on Wednesday mornings from 9:30-11:30, at Dianne Hazard's home. The final meeting will occur on February 27 at 7:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church on Old Canton Road and will be for DADS ONLY. Call Anne Pringle at 601-981-5574 for more information. The eleventh grade garage sale will be held on March 8 and the tenth graders will host the prospective student carnival, Prep Fest, in April. There will be art receptions, recruiting events and a host of other opportunities for involvement. Check our website regularly for more information.

Our biggest event this spring is the PAT Fundraiser. We are taking a different direction this year and trying something new. The fundraiser, a Celebrity Waiter Dinner, will be held at the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland on Thursday, April 3. This is our only plea for money this year, and it is sure to be a fun event. Terri Courtney is chairman and has successfully hosted this type of dinner to raise funds for her children's school in Louisiana. She will be assisted by Finney Moore, Silent Auction Chairman, to make this event a reality. Our fundraiser is designed to raise money for two purposes. First, half of our profits grow our Teacher Endowment Fund, which affords us the ability to honor our dedicated teachers with a Christmas bonus. Second, the other half allows us to meet a particular school need. In years past, we have contributed to the reader-board sign in front of the school, purchased library books and provided technology for the classrooms by way of the elmo devices. This year, our money will go toward items necessary for completion of the new dining commons currently under construction. Specific information will be forthcoming in the months ahead. Please make plans now to attend the fundraiser. This will be a fun evening with good food (supplied by Wendy Putt), entertainment and great items to bid on and make yours. You have a great opportunity to benefit our teachers and our school and have a good time as well. What a fantastic way to visit with other parents and further the fabulous education you are giving your children. We look forward to seeing you there. Check your mailbox for more information!

directory updates

Britt Buchanan, grade 9 **Ryan, grade 7**

Mr. and Mrs. Brooks Buchanan
New phone no: 601-981-7278

Sarah Anne Buffington, grade 7

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Buffington
129 Meadow View Ln
Flora, MS 39071
New phone no: 601-853-9390

John Thomas Couch, grade 9

Ms. Betsy Crawley
407 Autumn Creek Drive
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-707-7560

Hunter Harrison, grade 9 **Ashleigh, grade 7**

Dr. and Mrs. Scott Harrison
2449 Wild Valley Dr
Jackson, MS 39211

Mary Stewart Hurst, grade 7

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hurst
2210 Culleywood Rd
Jackson, MS 39211
New home no: 601-982-4944

Noah Killebrew, grade 9 **Hannah, grade 10**

New phone no: 601-853-8853

Janie Bennett Matthews, grade 6

Mr. and Mrs. Alan E. Matthews
13 Highland Meadows Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
Home no: 769-251-5693

Kristen Walker, grade 8

Mr. and Mrs. David Walker
15 Twelve Oaks Dr
Madison, MS 39110

NEW STUDENTS

Stephen Maccarone, grade 6

Mr. James & Dr. Karen Maccarone
563 Buchanan Drive
Byram, MS 39272
601-373-4342

Kat McLeod, grade 8

Ms. Katherine McLeod
2344 East Manor Drive
Jackson, MS 39211
601-362-0000

for your information

SUBJECT CHOICE SELECTION FOR 2008-2009

Subject choice selection for the 2008-2009 academic year will occur in February. Seventh grade students will receive their subject choice cards during a special assembly in the Guyton Lyceum on Tuesday, February 19. Eighth grade students will receive their subject choice cards during a special assembly in the Lyceum on Wednesday, February 20. These cards will then be sent home for parents to review and sign. The subject choice cards are to be returned to each student's homeroom teacher by the date printed on the card. The high school counselors will conduct sessions for the ninth, tenth, and eleventh graders using the combined activity period and directed study classes. Sessions will be conducted on the following dates: February 12-15 for ninth grade, February 19-21 for tenth grade, and February 25-28 for eleventh grade.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORTING

Many of our seniors have already received scholarship offers, and additional offers will be extended by colleges and organizations in the coming weeks and months. Please keep a record of the names and values of your child's scholarship offers. A form will be sent to senior parents to help with recording this information which will be reported to the counseling office by students just prior to Class Day. Scholarship acceptances will be announced at Class Day. Monetary values of scholarship offers and acceptances are for school statistics only and will not be announced at Class Day.

CAREER ASSESSMENT FOR JUNIORS

The Mississippi State University Career Center is offering a Career Assessment Seminar for Prep Juniors on February 21 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the HMC. Space is limited to the first 50 students to sign up. A \$30 registration fee is due upon registration. Information on this program will be mailed to junior parents the first week in February.

LETTER WILL BE SENT ABOUT AP COURSES

Parents of students who are enrolled in AP courses will receive a letter in February that explains the payment policy for AP exam fees. The College Board has set the 2008 AP exam fee at \$84 per exam.

JUNIOR PARENTS' CONFERENCES

Parents of juniors are encouraged to make an appointment for a 30-minute conference with the college counselor to discuss their child's college plans. For an appointment, contact Jeanne Marie Peet at jpeet@jacksonprep.net or call 601-932-8106, ext. 232.

FINANCIAL AID FOR COLLEGE

FAFSA on the Web Worksheets are available in the college counseling office to assist in submitting the FAFSA on-line at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is the first step in applying for financial aid.

TRANSCRIPTS

Seven-semester transcripts were mailed in late January to all out-of-state and private selective colleges and universities to which seniors have applied and continue to have interest and to public in-state colleges upon request by the student, parent, or college. Final transcripts will be mailed after graduation to the college or university in which the senior will enroll.

MTAG AND MESG APPLICATIONS

All seniors should apply for the Mississippi Tuition Assistance Grant (MTAG) and/or the Mississippi Eminent Scholars Grant (MESG). The application is now available on-line at www.ihl.state.ms.us. GPA information will be sent electronically from the school to the IHL office which administers these programs. ACT scores will be sent directly from the testing agency for all students, but students using SAT score for eligibility will need to provide a copy of their SAT score report to the IHL financial aid office. There is no need to request transcripts for this program.

department spotlight science department

The science department is actively working to deliver the best possible education in science. With new science discoveries and research in science education, it is our goal to incorporate these theories and techniques into the curriculum while keeping our focus on providing a solid foundation in science for all our students.

Our new AP course, Environmental Science, is designed to be the equivalent of a one-semester, introductory college course in environmental science. This course combines topics in biology, chemistry, geography, environmental studies and geology. The College Board recommends a long-term research project for this course in addition to the traditional laboratory work. Prep was very fortunate to have two wells drilled by the Environmental Division of the Mississippi Office of Geology for this project. The wells were drilled on the east side of the Prep campus to monitor the water quality of surface ground water and the deeper aquifers. Students are responsible for monitoring several aspects of the water quality in these wells and reporting their data to the state.

For professional development, six members of the science faculty have attended

conferences this year. In December, Sandy Cazier, Jon Marcus Duncan, Nancy Jones, Marti Sorey and Carolyn Tatum traveled to Birmingham, Alabama for the regional conference of the National Association of Science Teachers (NSTA). They had the opportunity to evaluate new textbooks, hear talks about high school curriculum issues and attend workshops on specific equipment. Marsha Hobbs attended the meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in Baltimore, Maryland in January. She focused her time on evaluating laboratory equipment, textbooks and graphing calculators, as well as attending plenary sessions on the latest physics research.

On the equipment side, the science department is working to provide the training and equipment for advanced computer based laboratories. We want to teach our students a wide range of laboratory skills similar to what they will find in their college laboratories. Also, many of the new tools allow concepts to be taught more qualitatively, focusing students on the general concepts instead of the mathematics. Many students will use the new probes with the laptops on the school cart this spring as we begin to integrate this technology into the curriculum. Plans are to add more probes and a laptop cart for the science department when funds become available.

We are excited about the new course, professional development opportunities and advanced equipment in the science department. Our goal is to teach our students the nature and mechanics of science to help them understand the world around them and to prepare them for further studies.

ATTENTION ALL PREP COMMUNITY

Don't forget the **Junior Class Garage Sale on Saturday, March 8**. We need the following from everyone NOW:

- ✓ **All your garage sale donations**
Drop off donations NOW in the senior high foyer during school hours (get a donation receipt while you are there).
- ✓ **Any large item donations**
Call Jane Stringer at 601-992-2888 to arrange pick-up.
- ✓ **All your extra coat hangers**
- ✓ **All your paper sacks**
- ✓ **All your plastic grocery bags**

Call Becky Wooley at 601-366-4406 with any questions you may have.

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JACKSON PREP
Junior Class
GARAGE
SALE



Saturday
March 8th

Early Bird Hours
5 A.M. – 7 A.M.
(Admission \$5)
Free Admission 7 A.M. – 11 A.M.
Manning Patriot Center