

head of school



Each year the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) provides information to schools regarding the awareness and perception of independent schools. To this end, we are reminded to proactively communicate our “value added” benefit to all constituents. We must tell the story of our school’s rich heritage and legacy. I assure you that Prep’s leadership team is constantly reminded of this responsibility, and I ask for your help in communicating this positive message to the community and to prospective families.

On another note, I have the opportunity as Head of School to attend many school meetings. While some ask how I deal with sitting through all those reports, I must say that I find that these sessions are very helpful. I am constantly encouraged by the commitment Prep patrons make to the school as they contribute their time, talent and treasure. One noteworthy example is included in this edition of *Prepnotes*, where one of our patrons shared some thoughts on parenting at the November PAT meeting. I am confident that each of you will be able to identify with the subject matter. With the school and parents working together, we can help students process disappointment in their lives while they are under our care.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Lindsay
Head of School

special feature

development language *what does it all mean?*

by Crisler Boone, Head of External Affairs

You have been hearing about the *Investing in Excellence* capital campaign in which Prep is currently involved. I thought it would be helpful to share some information with you about the different opportunities you have to offer your financial support.

Capital Campaigns fund major expenditures. They usually have a three- to five-year pledge period and are not part of the operating budget. The goal of Prep’s *Investing in Excellence* campaign is to truly transform our campus. In this three-phased campaign, we will accomplish as many of Prep’s long-range goals as possible. This campaign has already provided enhancements to classroom technology by funding SMARTBoards and Elmos, making every classroom an interactive learning environment. In December, a groundbreaking ceremony will be held for the Dining Commons, a multi-functional building that will offer an expanded kitchen and serving area, spacious student and faculty dining and an outdoor plaza for student enjoyment.

The **Annual Fund** is an annual “campaign” that occurs on a regular – or yearly – basis. Money from the Annual Fund is pre-allocated as part of the operating budget so that it benefits our students during that current school year. It pays for things like sports supplies and equipment and educational supplies and tools (i.e., probes for science, headsets for foreign language labs). This is not unusual; in fact, it’s very typical in an independent school environment – from schools with kindergarten programs to

those at the college level. Because tuition does not cover the true cost to educate a child at Jackson Prep, when you give to the Annual Fund, your gift helps keep tuition in line. The advantage to you is that you have the benefit of a tax break. Without a successful Annual Fund, tuition would have to increase more than just the “cost of operating” percentages to which we try to adhere. The mix of commodities or services in a school typically costs 2.5 to 3.5 percent more than the consumer price index, or what we know as the rate of inflation. We are very efficient and effective in what we do to produce what our philosophy and mission statement affirm is our goal – to ensure that Jackson Prep is a place *where education is not an end in itself, but a means to the individual’s fulfillment as a contributing member of the world community*. We produce outstanding students. These are intrinsic values and goals that we hold so high. We are fortunate to have accomplished this goal while keeping our tuition rate lower than other independent schools in the area. The Annual Fund can be a vehicle to elevate the quality of our physical plant, such as facilities and landscaping, and increase funds for endowment and teacher salaries.

Your participation in these vehicles is important to our school. I encourage you to join the excitement by being part of the Capital Campaign and Annual Fund for Jackson Prep.

If you have questions or need information, please contact Crisler Boone at 601.932.8106, ext. 275 or cboone@jacksonprep.net.

board of trustees

by Duane Dewey, Chairman, Board of Trustees

Best wishes to you for a blessed and joyous Christmas season! In this issue and the next, I would like to present to you information about your Board of Trustees and how this governing body works within our school community. Each year a Committee on Trustees is formed for the purpose of considering and recommending new board members. That committee carefully considers the needs of the Board in terms of diversity, expertise and experience in order to best meet the challenges of the school. The goal is to provide continuity in decision-making, planning, and direction for the school. *(continued on page 3)*

junior high news

by Trudy Powers, Head of Junior High

IN APPRECIATION

The faculty and staff wish to thank junior high moms who have furnished delicious snacks and festive decorations to the teachers' lounge during first semester.

SEMESTER EXAMS

First semester exams will be given in December to grades 7-12. Students are encouraged to begin studying several days ahead so that "cramming" the night before the exam is not necessary. The semester exams are comprehensive tests for the semester, which are scheduled for two-hour blocks of time. The minimum time a student must stay in an exam is one hour. Parents should arrange to pick up their child after he or she finishes each exam. Exam grades are computed to count as twenty percent of the semester grade.

FRESHMEN RECEIVE COLLEGE FOLDERS

During a special ninth grade forum in the Prep Lyceum, the members of the Class of 2010 were addressed for the first time by our college admissions counselor, Jeanne Marie Peet, on November 5. Freshmen were reminded that the process of earning both graduation credits and a grade point average begins in the ninth grade. Mrs. Peet also told the students that colleges are interested in grades earned from the ninth grade on and not just ACT or SAT scores. During the forum each student received a college admissions information folder that contained "Thinking Ahead to College: Tips for High School Freshmen," charts for tracking graduation requirements and listing extracurricular activities, and a sample resume. Parents should ask for these folders to insure that they are not lost. The folders are intended to serve as a repository for college-related documents accumulated during the next three years.

NINTH GRADE TESTING

As a part of a new College Board program, the current ninth grade class will take the PSAT on Tuesday, January 29. Since this is a practice test, students' scores will not become a part of the college transcript. The skills analysis report, which will be provided by the testing agency, will help teachers and administrators identify students' strengths and weaknesses. Thus, students can learn how to improve their scores on national standardized college admission tests, which they will take during their junior and senior years. In order to register for this test, students will need to send the \$12.00 test fee to the school office by December 5.

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

Eighth graders and their parents are invited to learn more about the high school curriculum on Thursday, January 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the lyceum. Department chairs will provide information that should be helpful to students as they make subject choices in February.

high school news

by Luke Nealey, Head of Senior High

YOUTH LEADERSHIP JACKSON

Four Jackson Prep students will represent Prep in the Youth Leadership Jackson Class of 2007-08: juniors Kelli Dulaney and Casey Edwards and sophomores Rachel Crim and Walton Fenelon. YLJ is sponsored by the Metro Jackson Chamber of Commerce. Selection is based on demonstrated leadership in school and/or community and an expressed interest in furthering their knowledge of the greater Jackson area. Congratulations!

WAPT SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Congratulations to senior Bryant Salmon who has been selected to represent Prep as a WAPT Scholar Athlete.

WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN

Prep's nominees for the prestigious Wendy's High School Heisman Award are seniors Randle Bane and Bryant Salmon. Selection is based on submission of an online application, athletic participation and achievement, academic performance, and school and community involvement. Congratulations!

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD NOMINEE NAMED

John Harrison York has been selected as Prep's nominee for the Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. Selection is based on exemplary record of community service and volunteerism. Congratulations, John Harrison!

HOBY NOMINEE SELECTED

Sophomore Alexandra Franklin has been selected to represent Prep as its Ambassador at the HOBY (Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership) Seminar in May. HOBY targets high school sophomores and seeks to advance their leadership skills. Congratulations, Alexandra!

PLAN

All sophomores took the PLAN (Pre-ACT) on November 13. This test is a good predictor of success on the ACT, normally taken in the spring of the junior year. Look for the PLAN score reports to be mailed home in January.

COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINES

All documents from the school (secondary school report, teacher or counselor recommendations, transcripts) for college applications with January 1-5 deadlines will be submitted prior to the Christmas holidays. Students should request these documents and provide the appropriate forms to teachers and counselors no later than December 5. Counseling offices will not be open during the Christmas holidays.

department spotlight business & technology ed

The business and technology education department is delighted to share with you the fact that we have added two new courses to our curriculum!

A full year of Computer Applications is now offered at the eighth grade level. This course meets the students' graduation requirement in computer and affords them more time in their high school years for other elective choices. Perhaps the greatest advantage to the students, though, is the computer skills they will have mastered before they begin their high school career. This course, taught by Amy Wiandt

and Reta Haire, begins with a study of the keyboard – emphasizing speed and accuracy development throughout the course. The computer applications that are studied are word processing, spreadsheet, database, and integration. The students will also have some exposure to desktop publishing and presentation software.

The other new course we are offering, Media Arts, is a full-year course that follows a different approach each semester. The first semester, taught by Diann Arinder, approaches cinema from a critical and analytical point of view. The course includes film history, social and historical influences on film, major genres, influential

directors, and significant actors and actresses. It involves viewing, listening, researching, writing, and discussion. The second semester, taught by Bobby Gross, approaches the subject from a production point of view. Students are introduced to broadcast journalism, theater production, advertising, and digital video and film production. Guest speakers from various media industries and field trips are a part of this semester. The students will produce a short commercial, a short sit-com style show, and a longer film.

We are excited to be able to offer these new opportunities to our students and look forward to seeing the benefits they will provide.

(continued from page 1)

Once appointed and approved by the full board, each new Board member serves a three-year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Board is made up of the Executive Committee that includes the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Past Chairman. In any given year, the full Board can be at least 15 and not more than 22 members. The 2007-2008 Board is made up of the following members: Duane Dewey, Chairman; Dudley Wooley, Vice Chairman; Len Martin, Secretary; Jim Coggin, Jr., Treasurer; Doug McDaniel, Past Chair; Darlene Dotherow; Kelley Walton Fenelon; Susan Garrard; Carmel Lopez-Lampton; Robert Lampton; Rob Love; Hu Meena; Billy Mounger; Jimmy Nix; Anne Wells Rogers; Stewart Swayze; Mollie Van Devender; Johnny Wade; Steve Zachow and Susan Lindsay. I would like to add that this is a very diverse, talented, committed and active Board!

The primary focus of an independent school board involves governance, financial oversight, strategic and long-range planning, and evaluation of the Head of School. Issues of day-to-day management of the school remain with the Head of School and the school administration. I will elaborate more on the role of our Board of Trustees in the next issue of *Prepnotes*.

Thank you for your support and commitment to Jackson Prep. Let us know when we can be of assistance.

pat news

by Lisa Lamb, PAT President

It is hard to believe that the first semester of the school year is rapidly marching to an end. Before you know it, we will be asking that familiar question, "Have you started studying for your finals?" I am feeling anxious because I will not be asking my college freshman that question as regularly. Alas, this is part of the growing up process, which we must facilitate and encourage: their independence and responsibility.

The PAT Board and I thank all our parents who came out on October 3 to hear Keith Nord. His message, which focused on helping kids make good choices and being good role models, was very effective and well-received. I was most struck by his comments concerning who we are as parents. He stated that our kids need to see us focused and passionate about something. In turn, this will act as a means to spur them on to follow their dreams. I hope this will cause you to question how you approach your job, home activities, church commitments and community involvement under your children's scrutiny. It certainly made me evaluate what kind of role model I am, even in the day to day small stuff, because isn't most of what we do the small stuff anyway?

Our primary focus in October was Prep Preview, held on the morning of October 9, and in the evening prior to the MRA football game on November 2. Many families in the Jackson area attended and were very impressed with our school, its faculty and staff. Make sure you thank Lesley Morton, Director of Admission, and Melanie Milner, Jana Barraza, and Amy McGowan, PAT Prep Preview Committee Chairmen, for their hard work and tremendous success. If you see that you will have more time in the spring to be involved in the PAT there are many places where you can serve. Examples include the PAT Fundraiser, Fine Arts month, Prep Fest and the Junior Class Garage Sale. Please contact me or someone on the PAT Board, which is listed inside the initial pages of your school directory, and we will get you plugged in. And don't forget our first meeting of the new year at noon on Thursday, January 17 at noon. This is a great time to find out what is going on in the day-to-day life of your child from Reta Haire, PAT Liaison, and learn about some aspect of Jackson Prep that was unknown to you before. If you can only come for the first 15 minutes, the devotion by Melissa Ridgway will bless and challenge you. Those who attend regularly have verbalized those sentiments to me at the end of each meeting. Jackson Prep PAT needs you and wants you, moms and dads alike.

admission news

by Lesley Morton, Director of Admission

Prep Preview Daytime Visit will be offered again on Thursday, December 6. We had our largest crowd EVER for a daytime visit in October, so this is obviously growing in popularity as *the best way* to see our school. Please make a reservation with Beth Brooks to attend this event with your prospective student and help us spread the word to friends who may be considering Jackson Prep!

Our last Saturday admission "test day" is coming up on December 8. This will be the last date of testing scheduled soon enough to meet the early bird registration deadline on February 1, 2008. We will offer the admission test to rising sixth to ninth graders at 9:30 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. Please reserve a place as this date will likely fill up.

I challenge our current families to overwork us by submitting additional names of your local relatives, neighbors, church friends or business associates whose children attend public school and may not be receiving information about Prep.

If you would like to assist with a **Fireside Chat** for parents of prospective students in area homes, please let Lesley Morton know. We need current parents to host these events that are usually held during mid-winter after the holidays. These present wonderful opportunities for prospects to get information on our school in smaller gatherings.

Contact Lesley Morton for any admission information at lmorton@jacksonprep.net or (601) 932-8106, ext. 1.

alumni news

by Lucia Jones, Director of Alumni Relations

On January 19, 2008, the Jackson Prep 1998 Championship basketball team will be honored between the girls' and boys' varsity basketball games as Prep plays East Rankin. Go Patriots!

directory updates

Jimmy Gartrell, grade 10
George, grade 7
Ms. Debra Zane
4407 Eastridge
Jackson, MS 39211
601-368-9698

Christian Jarrett, grade 9
Mr. Michael Jarrett
122 Annandale Pkwy. E.
Madison, MS 39110
601-605-0942

Nicholas Juncos, grade 8
Dr. and Mrs. Luis Juncos
118 Bridgepointe Blvd.
Brandon, MS 39047
601-829-4202

Callie Nutt, grade 11
Phillip, grade 9
Mr. David Nutt
290 Chapel Hill Rd
Flora, MS 39071

Landen Tharp, grade 10
Drs. Rod and Pam Tharp
103 Novara Cove
Madison, MS 39110
Same phone 601-898-1410

Porter Walters, grade 7
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Walters
356 Red Eagle Circle
Ridgeland, MS 39157
601-605-2363

first semester exams

First semester exams will be held on the following days:

December 17 8:15 Social Studies
1:00 Math

December 18 8:15 English

1:00 Foreign Language

December 19 8:15 Science

save the date for your information

EIGHTH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

The current eighth grade class will take achievement tests on Wednesday, January 30 during the first three periods of the day. Eighth grade parents will receive a letter the first week in January describing the tests and identifying what students should bring to the testing.

SEVENTH GRADE SAT AND ACT PREPARATION WORKSHOPS

On January 25, all seventh graders who signed up to take the January SAT through the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) will meet in the Lyceum during fourth period for a Preparation Workshop. Students are reminded to eat lunch during homeroom and to bring all necessary materials to the workshop. Students who signed up to take the ACT will have a Preparation Workshop on February 15.

PSAT SCORES WILL BE MAILED IN EARLY DECEMBER

All students who take the PSAT will have free access to the College Board's web-based career, majors, and college exploration tool. Students will receive information on how to access this program when they receive their score reports.

SENIOR HIGH ACT/SAT WORKSHOP

Registration forms for the next ACT/SAT Workshop are now available on the website and in the counseling office. Students will have the choice of six weeknight sessions (January 10, 17, 24, 31; February 5, 7) or three Saturday sessions (January 12, 19; February 2). The workshop fee is \$150 and the registration deadline is December 15. Class sizes are limited, so apply early!

COLLEGE INFORMATION MEETING FOR JUNIOR PARENTS

Parents of juniors should plan to attend the College Information Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 24, 2008, in the Guyton Lyceum. College Handbooks will be distributed and important information on the college admissions process will be presented by our college admissions counselor.

find what you are seeking at www.jacksonprep.net

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Fairy Tale Dreamworld

by Melissa Ridgway, PAT Devotion Chairman
(Excerpts from November 2, 2007 PAT Meeting)

What do we dream? Everything in our world prepares our children for the ultimate dream. Our society makes this the ultimate goal for parents as well. We want that dream, whatever it is, to come true for our children. In reality, our world does not prepare us for hurt, failure and loss, but, instead, for the highest dream to come true. Society raises our expectations so that we are always waiting for this dream to become reality. This sets our children up for the fairy tale dream, and they are unprepared for reality!

What do parents do when reality hits? In late elementary school children begin to experience great pain in not being chosen to be on the team, the loss of an election, or failure to make the cut for honors classes. At the same time, they face rejection by friends, being let down by their best buddies, and maybe some backstabbing. They are devastated! Our parental piece kicks into high gear. It says, “SAVE THEM FROM HURT!” We’ve experienced it ourselves, and we want to protect them from it. (My mama always said that hurt for your child is 1,000 times your own.)

How do we as parents cope? One thing we do is divert our children’s attention from the pain. We give them something else to cling to—take them shopping or plan an exciting trip. The other thing we do is blame others for our children’s dreams not coming true. They hear this and it becomes a part of their fabric. We tell them how wonderful they are and how they are certainly *entitled* to the best dream there is. In doing so, we rob them of the reality of loss. This is a part of life at every level. Most of us have lived long enough to know what “real” reality is—pain, loss, separation, grief, heartache. We do our children a great disservice if we don’t help them learn how to cope and equip them for the hard realities of life. If they haven’t learned early how to deal with broken dreams, by the time they get to high school they will find ways to handle it on their own. Some dull their pain through medication so they don’t have to deal with reality—alcohol and drugs are often the medications of choice for teenagers. Another way they cope is to immerse themselves in another person, many times someone of the opposite sex. By losing themselves in another person emotionally, they try to make their dreams come true. These methods, however, are just ways of avoiding reality instead of learning to embrace it.

So what’s a good parent to do? Our challenge is how to teach our children to live and deal with the “realness” of reality. If we really want to do our parental job well, we need to be the ones to teach them to deal with loss. We must be prepared and have a plan in place when there is loss and heartache. Know that grief shows itself as denial, anger, hostility (sometimes directed at you), depression and sadness—normal preludes to the final acceptance. The key is to allow and encourage our children to process, process, process—let them talk it out completely. Sometimes I think that we as parents have such a hard time in these instances because we ourselves aren’t ready to face reality and deal with loss. For me, I find solace in the fact that there is something greater than the present crisis or event. Through my faith, I know there is something beyond this which brings perspective and helps make sense of it all. Life is not always spring and summer. Winter happens, but spring is coming. We can help our children have a healthier life if we balance all seasons as a part of our life experience. We can make a tremendous impact on the Prep community as we come together to learn to understand our losses, embrace one another’s grief, and love each other through each season.

“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 2:14