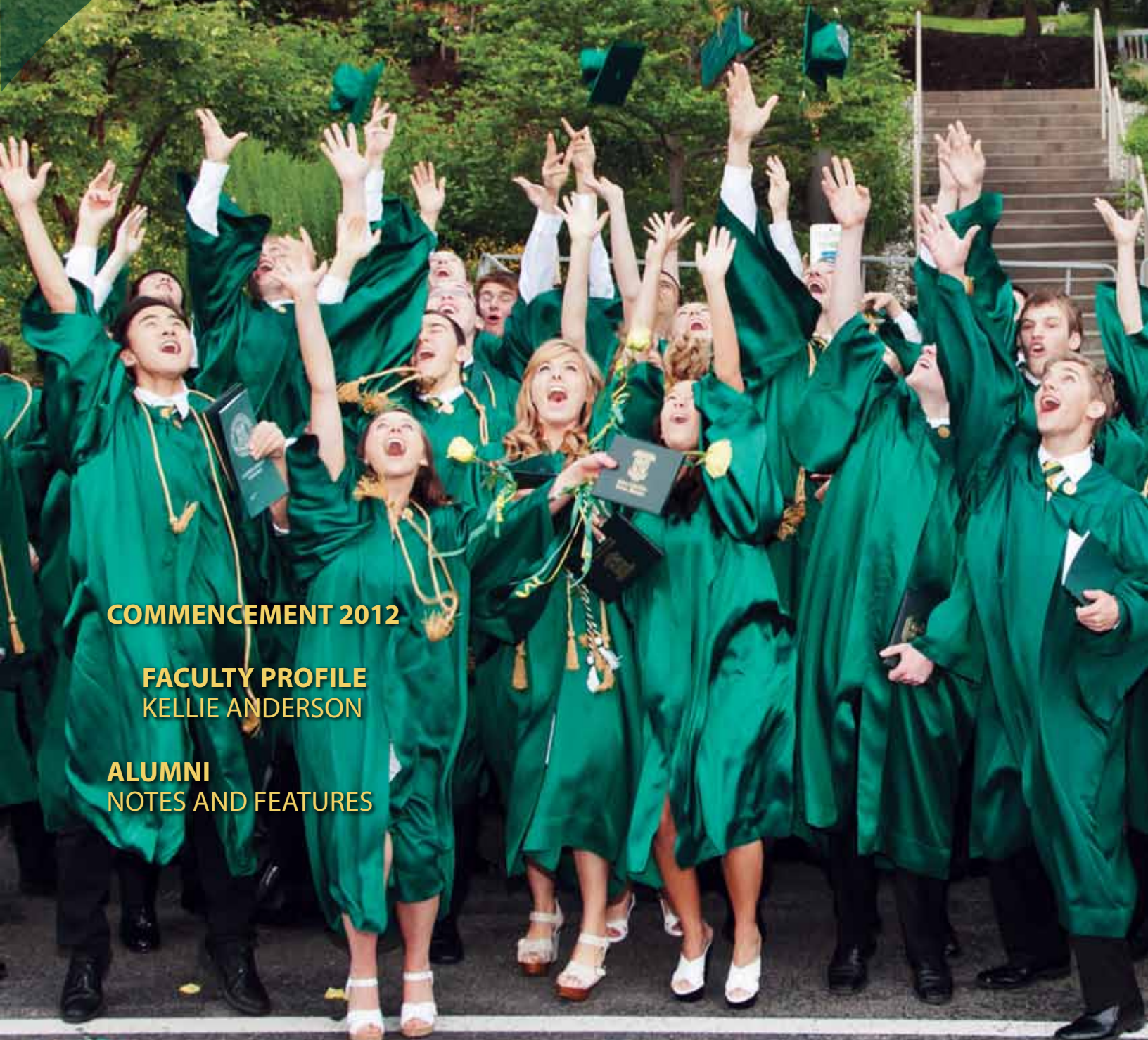


# MODUS VIVENDI

A WAY OF LIFE



**COMMENCEMENT 2012**

**FACULTY PROFILE**  
KELLIE ANDERSON

**ALUMNI**  
NOTES AND FEATURES

On the cover: The Class of 2012 celebrates after The Bear Creek School's Twelfth Commencement Exercises at First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue. Photo by Nation Photography

This page: Students in grades 5 and 6 perform at Bear Creek's annual Mothers Tea in the Cornerstone Theater at Redmond Campus. Photo by Brent Ethington

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## Modus Vivendi Fall 2012

*Modus Vivendi* is translated as a way of life or a manner of living. The Bear Creek School seeks to develop individuals for whom the classical ideals of excellence in all things, love of learning, spiritual commitment, and self-discipline have become a way of life.

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*The mission of The Bear Creek School is to provide a high-quality, Christian liberal arts education in a nurturing environment that will enable each student to become the individual God intends.*



# COMMENCEMENT 2012

## Congratulations to the Class of 2012

Shannon Angeline Abbott*** <i>University of Washington</i>	Aaron Edward DiGenova‡*** <i>University of Notre Dame</i>	Gwendolyn Rose Jones*** <i>Carnegie Mellon University</i>	Thomas James Ricard* <i>New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology</i>
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Hanna Jeanne Anderson* <i>Hillsdale College</i>	Alexis Evelyn Elliott* <i>Whitworth University</i>	Madelyn Ruth Magee‡** <i>Columbia University</i>	Reeves Delaney Stump‡* <i>University of Washington Bothell</i>
Dillon Taylor Baker‡* <i>University of Washington</i>	Blake Riuchi Palmer Emery <i>University of Washington</i>	Brandon Curtis Matson‡** <i>University of Washington</i>	Shangyu Sun <i>University of Washington</i>
Alexander George Beare <i>Gonzaga University</i>	Kendall Frances Engelstone‡* <i>Baylor University</i>	Christopher William Mehta <i>Washington State University</i>	Charles Cameron Tillinghast <i>The University of Colorado Boulder</i>
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Alexander Seiji Boettcher <i>Washington State University</i>	Elizabeth Grace Fernandez‡* <i>The University of Arizona</i>	Bethan Kathleen Coryell Meyer*** <i>Tulane University</i>	HaYoung Amy Um* <i>University of Washington</i>
Anna Elizabeth Broaddus** <i>Whitworth University</i>	Lucas George Fernandez‡** <i>Montana State University</i>	Sterling Rahsaan Miller* <i>Gonzaga University</i>	Nicholas T Van Baak* <i>Calvin College</i>
Jaeseung Michael Chang* <i>Emory University</i>	Andrew David Gasiewicz <i>Montana State University</i>	Gimin Moon* <i>The University of Southern California</i>	Kristin Sanborn Wallis* <i>Baylor University</i>
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Halle Mariah Coleman <i>Washington State University</i>	Danielle Reta Isbell‡*** <i>Belmont University</i>	Daniel Mark Phillips <i>Oregon State University</i>	
Kerry Culbert-O'Leary <i>Montana State University</i>	Neal Griffin Jatekar <i>Gonzaga University</i>	Elizabeth Lawrence Probus** <i>Whitworth University</i>	
Grant Robert Caines Daugherty‡ <i>California Polytechnic State University</i>	Megan Alexandra Jenson* <i>Vanguard University of Southern California</i>	Morgan Elizabeth Rial** <i>Baylor University</i>	

\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude (3.9 - 4.0 GPA)  
\*\* Magna Cum Laude (3.75 - 3.89 GPA)  
\*Cum Laude (3.5 - 3.749 GPA)  
‡Legacy Honors (Bear Creek student from kindergarten through grade 12)

## Commencement Charge

By Patrick Carruth, President and Headmaster



So there you sit, anxious and ready, hoping this speech will be very brief. Your journey—it is almost finished. And yet, it has just begun.

But before we send you off from The Bear Creek School, please allow me to administer just one final pop quiz. It is an easy quiz. Reading comprehension you might say. You need only answer in your mind and you will score your own. The instructions are simple: name the story from which the following lines have been taken. Ready?

- #1. "Magic mirror on the wall / Who is the fairest of them all?"
- #2. "On the stroke of twelve, the spell will be broken, and everything will be as it was before."
- #3. "Fee-fi-fo-fum! / I smell the blood of an Englishman."

How did you do? Did you recognize these from the distant past—like ancient tales from the mist of eighteen years of time?

As you might expect, I am not much of a movie buff. I usually spend time in old books and older stories, but recently I have seen a few movies, (*The Dark Knight*, *Thor*, *Captain America*, *Iron Man*)

and some remind me of the old stories. Last month *The Avengers* set a box office record for opening day and it took me over a week to get a seat at the theater.

So, what is the attraction? What is it about a bunch of mythical, fairy tale characters that is so appealing in today's modern culture?

Perhaps G.K. Chesterton's following quotes in *Tremendous Trifles*, begins to answer this question:

"[Children] are alarmed at this world, because this world is a very alarming place. They dislike being alone because it is verily and indeed an awful idea to be alone. Barbarians fear the unknown for the same reason that Agnostics worship it—because it is a fact. Fairy tales, then, are not responsible for producing in children fear, or any of the shapes of fear; fairy tales do not give the child the idea of the evil or the ugly; that is in the child already, because it is in the world already. Fairy tales do not give the child his first idea of bogey. What fairy tales give the child is his first clear idea of the possible defeat of bogey. The baby has known the dragon intimately ever since he had an imagination. What the fairy tale provides for him is a St. George to kill the dragon."

We live in a largely self-absorbed culture, and we struggle daily with its blessings and cursings. We build monuments to self and squabble over petty issues to the point where we neither listen nor hear. We fret over finances and the future. We program our days yet they frequently crash. We live, and we die, and we wonder. The world can indeed be a very alarming place fraught with dragons, and we long for the dragons to be slayed. We long for heroes.

We long for heroes because they retell us what we have forgotten. They remind us that the fall is not the end. That ugliness is overcome with beauty, "... that these limitless terrors [have] a limit, that these shapeless enemies have enemies in the knights of God, that there is something in the universe more mystical than darkness, and stronger than strong fear" (Chesterton, *Tremendous Trifles*, XVII. *The Red Angel*).

We were created to love truth, beauty, and goodness, and we yearn to return to our best selves, to reflect the image of God, the imago Dei, in all that we do. We want to live well and to defeat death.

Heroes always appear in this context. They are better than we. They overcome and sacrifice for the common good. Poets extol them in verse, authors praise them in prose, bards sing of them in song, and we remember them for a thousand generations. They are the focus of the great stories we tell to our children—the fairy tales of their youth.

And of course it should be so. The Scriptures tell us the

Commencement photos by Nation Photography, Cindy McCahill, and Sini Fernandez



Cameron Tillinghast, Brandon Matson, Blake Emery, Lucas Fernandez, Aaron DiGenova, and Zach Alleva all played LWYSA youth soccer on the "Ravens" while in Lower School.

Grandest Story of the Greatest Sacrifice, so we should expect to be drawn to the lesser stories and fairy tales. We were created to do so. And the beautiful thing is the Greatest Fairy Tale is actually true.

So fairy tales form the setting to offer you a simple and direct challenge:

Graduates of 2012, you have performed admirably, scored well on your tests, played, sung, danced, kicked, written, painted, and served well. You have met and exceeded our expectations in so many areas and in so many ways.

And now you begin . . . again. You commence the next chapter in the tale of your life, and it is our greatest prayer that you will compose a heroic tale—a tale that embodies “. . . whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable . . .”

(Philippians 4:8). A tale that resounds for generations. A tale of wisdom, compassion, and courage that brings truth, beauty, and goodness to the communities in which you live.

As you have heard here today, we implore you to be heroic, live courageously, be the 1%, and make a difference in the world as you compose your fairy tale.

And always remember, “Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten” (usually attributed to G.K. Chesterton).

My challenge to you, graduates, is to love the Lord and to live heroically. Congratulations and farewell for now, Class of 2012. Now go slay a few dragons!



Kristin Wallis hugs her classmates following Bear Creek's 12th Commencement Exercises.

## Commencement Address

By Rev. Earl F. Palmer



Rev. Palmer shared with the Class of 2012 biblical insight into the definition of courage and what it means for them as they move through life. Excerpts of his speech are included here.

What comes into your mind when you think of the word “courage?” In the New Testament there are four words that stand out. Some definitions will not surprise you: the first is *risk* or *dare*; the second is *presence*; and the third is *steadfastness*.

But the fourth courage word may indeed take us by surprise. It is the word our Lord uses in the Beatitudes, “Blessed are the meek.” What does he mean by meekness and what does it have to do with courage? The word in classical Greek is sometimes used to refer to an animal like a horse that is calm and therefore trainable or *teachable*. Jesus uses it in this way as a guidance word for his disciples. Meek does not mean weak. It means teachable and in fact the trainable man or horse is faster and even more powerful than the unteachable one. This is because when we are teachable we learn how to ski, how to run, how to do surgery in a skillful and disciplined way, and therefore that meekness that is willing to learn is better able to dare the jump that a skier dreams about doing, or to run the full distance of the marathon, or to actually participate as a physician or nurse in a seven-hour emergency brain operation.

What I was willing to humbly learn has now equipped me for risk and presence and endurance. This is Jesus’ point in that beatitude—“You are on the right road (which is the Hebrew

meaning of blessed, *ashre*) when you are meek (teachable).” Each of the nine Beatitudes has a second sentence that is a promise added by our Lord the Teacher. For meekness Jesus adds a very exciting promise. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” What a promise. Not the arrogant nor the selfish nor the lazy nor the adrift ones, but the teachable ones who are willing to learn and therefore focus on the Truth that sets us free. These are the ones who hear the promise.

These are thoughts on courage—but you deserve a definition of happiness too. Happiness happens when you take good risks that deserve the risking. Happiness happens when your yes is yes and your no is no. Happiness happens when you stay around and hang in there with your friends and family just because you want to so that they can find you and you can find them. And happiness is always enriched by learning, especially when we stay teachable and eager to learn.

Earl Palmer has served as a minister for over 50 years at numerous churches, including the University Presbyterian Church in Seattle and most recently as Preaching Pastor-In-Residence at The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. He holds degrees from the University of California Berkeley and Princeton Theological Seminary. Palmer has served on the board of trustees at Princeton Theological Seminary since 1973 and also the board of trustees of New College Berkeley in California. Palmer currently carries on his ministry under the sponsorship of Earl Palmer Ministries, which serves to encourage and build up pastors and laity through its ministry of teaching, writing, and mentoring. Earl is also author of numerous articles and books, his most recent title *Trusting God*. Earl and Shirley, married for 53 years, make their home in Seattle, WA and have 3 children and 8 grandchildren.



## Faculty Address

By Donna Dunn, Science Department Chair



When you were in ninth grade, your lockers were at my end of the hall. You were my 8:00 a.m. obstacle course each morning as I headed to my room. I may have snarled at you a time or two as you spun around and your backpack slammed into my face. Thank you for demonstrating forgiveness by inviting me here today. I have forgiven you, and will miss you being underfoot. But I am excited for you today—this day we talked about in Capstone a few months ago in terms of launch—we are here to launch you into a future apart from us. I feel the ground shake beneath my feet.

Your Capstone class was designed to be a bit of rocket propulsion for you this year. I don't know exactly what *you* learned, but I learned some great stuff from your discussions about what you were learning. Sometimes at Bear Creek, you were the teachers.

I learned from you about this wonderful concept called “common grace”—the loveliness within each individual due to God's imprint stamped upon them—*imago Dei*. So I ask you to appreciate the common grace in others, but for yourselves, to step up to uncommon grace. Be extraordinary in the ways of God. There was much in the news this past year about the 1% and the 99%. Politics aside, I have been intrigued by those numbers, and I feel the pull of the smaller one. So I challenge you to consider this: be the 1%. Not the 1% that made the news headlines, but the 1% that stands out from the crowd, the 1% that performs the unprecedented. Catch yourself when you're running with the pack, and challenge yourself to be uncommon. We know already that you have uncommon style—there were the shoes, the blazers, the passion for dissection. Well, that's my idea of stylish. But what's ahead? What awaits you in this trajectory of the extraordinary?

One of the Scripture passages I have loved for many years is Proverbs 3:3-4. “Do not let truth and loving kindness leave you.

Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. So shall you find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.” Truth and love bound together, linked like the fingers of your first grade hand, intertwined with your best buddy's, truth and love tattooed on the tablet of your heart.

When it comes to truth, you are well on your way to being uncommon. You have extraordinary analytical abilities – in biology, we love to unfold all the wrapped up bits of tissue, like lungs or intestines, flatten them out and exclaim, “Tennis court!” “Football field!” If I calculated the surface area of your combined cerebral cortices, it would encompass a big area—ocean! Small planet! Four years ago, Mr. Carruth gave his first Bear Creek commencement address as Headmaster. He challenged us to ask these three questions, “Is it true? How do I know? So what?” You are all preternaturally skilled at this kind of rational thought; you have an innate internal gauge for measuring truth, honed over your years here at Bear Creek. Seriously, you would all make good scientists. Science would take you on an endless quest for truth, weighing evidences, moving on. But the mind was made to close upon truth, to know more than theories or even laws, to find truth through reason plus another way of knowing, through faith in the God who loves you and gave His life for you, and to whom all truth belongs. Be as fierce in your faith as you have been in your rigorous analysis of faith. Be uncommon in seeking God's Truth.

And what about truth's partner, love? The Hebrew word here in Proverbs 3 is one of my favorites. The word is *hesed*, and is variously translated mercy, kindness, loyalty, loving kindness, and steadfast love. Ask yourself: “Do I love? How do I know? And how do they know?” You have distinguished yourselves in this regard in so many ways—two stand out to me. Your junior year some of you got together and made a video for a home-bound classmate with a severe chronic illness. In the video, you simply talked to her, catching her up on everything from the goings-on in Spanish class, to who was going with whom to prom. At a time when she was lonely and somewhat invisible, you were her friend. Another time, I stood in the pouring rain with you at a car wash to raise money for Japanese tsunami victims. On that cold, supersaturated day, our posters disintegrated into tiny bits that wafted about our heads like paper snow, and some people got their cars washed simply because they felt sorry for us. But you never complained. More than that, you were exuberantly, cheerfully, steadfastly enthusiastic in your service to people you will most likely never meet. That's *hesed*—uncommon love.

So as you launch into your future, as you leave this place, do not let truth and steadfast love leave you. And as one who genuinely loves each of you, let me speak on behalf of your teachers for a moment.

We have taught you our subjects, taught you about truth, beauty, and goodness; in fact, I won't be surprised if you

name your offspring after them. One of the great things about community is that you don't have to do everything all by yourself. We, your teachers, have prospected your future for you—your advance scouts, if you will, anticipating what's ahead. Mrs. Tasche knows which of you will be the problem solvers for the planet, Mrs. Osborn sees you creating your future in colors and clay. Mr. Higbee, once he has recovered from disappointment that you aren't playing in the Husky marching band, hears your music in symphonies and celebrations to come. Mrs. McDonough envisions that you will always see with the eyes of the soul and greet old friends enthusiastically, as she does you. And I? Well, there's a podium in Stockholm...and when you are interviewed by the *New York Times* upon receipt of your Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, that's Dunn, D-U-N-N . . . 2 Ns.

On a serious note, I never forgot while I taught you, that who you were at that moment was but a glimpse of who you could become. And I have imagined your future.

I walked the room one day as I lectured, thinking I was catching you texting under the table, instead caught you reading a book—for pleasure—good literature at that. I imagine you in your future surrounded by stacks of books or Kindles or whatever new device you invent—books by your friends Augustine and Dostoevsky—toss in a few tomes of Greek and Hebrew, top it off with a book of poems by Kaplowicz.

I took you on our ecology field study to the tide pools, and you complained that there was nothing there. Hours later I had to drag you away. I picture you in your future as intrepid explorers, leaping from rock to rock, stopping to discover with the vision to see what others cannot. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, and the visible is made of the invisible.” (Hebrews 11:3)

I showed you in class the 99 balloons video about a fragile infant born with trisomy 18, and I saw you at that moment, and see you again now, as tender and articulate fathers and mothers, not only present in the lives of your children, but delighting in every aspect of them.



Science Department Award recipient Laurel Jones and the class of 2012 are congratulated by Bear Creek faculty at the end of the ceremony.



Joy Twentyman and Amy Um laugh with fellow classmates while listening to speaker Katelyn Petrin's recollections about “the Bear Creek kind of crazy.”

One day we were learning about Boyle's law and breathing—you wanted to show me how to correctly increase the volume of your thoracic cavity so you came up front and gave a spontaneous concert. About a dozen of you sang “*Omnia sol*” and the sound filled the corners of our smelly lab and made it beautiful. I've thought a bit about what this means for your future—will it include a high school musical? Or breathing well for extra credit? Perhaps, but I know for certain it will be one of transformation, redeeming the broken, bringing beauty to the ordinary. You are my inspiration.

You reveled in testing assumptions in my class, sometimes trying my patience ever so slightly—you're a scrappy bunch! I conceive of you standing in future lecture halls, arguing against your professor's assertion that the mind is merely a computer made of meat, and with rapier wit, and all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, defeat that nonsense.

This year in particular you demonstrated this wonderful leadership in ways big and small, in the classroom, but more impressively, in the hallways and likewise outside, and I envision you leading organizations big and small, with energy, imagination, and moral courage.

I see you in a remote corner of the world with the bottom 1% clustered around you, handing out bed nets and digging wells, holding in your arms an orphan with other-colored skin, finding the place where the world's deepest need meets your greatest longing.

And when you feel incapable, when you are beat down by your own imperfections and beat up by the world's, remember us, the ones who taught you, the ones who pushed you, the ones who imagined you fighting despair with hope, doubt with faith, uncertainty with wisdom, and meanness of spirit with *hesed*—uncommon love.

So...occupy! Occupy the life to which Christ calls you, be a movement proclaiming His name. And let Christ occupy you. Let Him make His home in your heart, and by His power and grace lead you into your uncommon future.

## Reflections from the Class of 2012



### Elizabeth Fernandez

For the last thirteen years, Bear Creek has been my second home. Not only have I spent an absurd number of hours on campus, but the students and faculty here have become a sort of extended family. Bear Creek has been the place of my failures and my triumphs, and it has shaped every aspect of my childhood and life as a young adult. From spelling tests to APs, playground disagreements to prom drama, this is the place where I experienced it all. At Bear Creek, I lost my first tooth, presented my first speech, and was asked to my first dance. Starting with the innocence of Lower School, to the awkwardness of Middle School, and the joys of high school, I have been able to discover who I truly am. I am in every sense of these words “a true Bear Creeker.”

One of the ways I have been blessed most through Bear Creek is by getting to be a part of the Class of 2012. In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, Paul describes unity through diversity in the body of Christ, and I cannot think of a better example of this concept than the 57 people standing behind me. In some ways we might seem pretty similar, our class is full of first-borns, of type A personalities, and of overachievers. It is safe to say that we do not have confidence issues. This part of our character is very apparent, and I am sure all of our teachers could tell you stories. But when taking a closer look, you’ll see our diversity start to show. We

have a couple D1 athletes, some amazing debaters, very gifted artists, and a whole ton of 4.0 students (nerdy and we know it). Together we all cheered our hearts out at State basketball, ‘secretly’ competed on every test and way over-planned for our senior prank. Each one of us has been blessed with unique gifts and we are not afraid to use them. Spending every school day in an environment where people do what they love and strive their hardest to be the best at it can be a bit intimidating at times, but my fellow classmates have all been inspirations and motivations to me. Together we make a strong and powerful body of Christ. And even though we might sometimes be a tad bit overconfident and some might say that this could be our Achilles heel, I believe that it is our greatest strength.

When I was in Lower School and adults told me how unique an opportunity Bear Creek was, I assumed that the difference they were referring to was how teachers could talk about God here. While this is indeed true, as a senior departing for college in a couple months, I now have a much fuller understanding of what those adults meant. When reflecting on who I have become, spiritually, intellectually, and personally, it all comes down to the experiences and relationships I have had through or around Bear Creek. Even though leaving my class of 60 for one of 10,000 will be a little bit frightening and I will miss my family at Bear Creek with all my heart, I am very ready to embark on this new adventure. I feel confident in who I am, prepared to face the challenges ahead of me, and so incredibly excited to see what God has in store for me.

### Kooha Kwon

During my years in the United States and at The Bear Creek School, I have felt tentative and uncertain at times. Sometimes I wondered why I threw myself into this exotic country. At a commencement address in 2005, Steve Jobs said about his learning experiences, “Of course it was impossible to connect the dots looking forward when I was in college. But it was very, very clear

looking backwards ten years later.” And I would say the same thing. It was impossible to connect the dots in those indefinite moments. But God’s plan for me in this amazing community is very, very clear looking backwards five years later.

I came to the United States in 2005, and in 2007 I transferred here from a small middle school. Based on my uncle’s advice, I applied to several private schools in the area, including The Bear Creek School. By God’s plan, spots for international students at all the other schools were filled. Fortunately, I was accepted to The Bear Creek School.

In my first year at Bear Creek I lived with my grandma, who neither spoke English nor drove. So my parents, who work in Korea, had to find some way to bring my sister and me to school. After a long search, and just three days before my first day of school, the house I now live in came up for sale. And this kind of small miracle continued to help me throughout the last five years.

At The Bear Creek School, God has provided me a number of opportunities, experiences, and challenges. Through them, I grew as a student and also as a Christian. My friends have been great companions. I am different due to my Korean ethnicity, but they embraced me just as I am. Sometimes I wonder what kind of person I would have become if I had gone to a public school or even another private school. I am sure I would not be as close to God and my friends



as now I am. I am sure I would not be this Kooha Kwon without Bear Creek.

Still, there are a few dots left in the mystery. However, I know those dots as well will connect as I follow the path that God has planned for me. God sent me to Bear Creek in order for me to receive an excellent preparation for my larger amazing plan. Now God sends me to a whole new place called college. I do not know what He has planned for me there, but I am sure that it will be worth throwing myself into no matter what.



### Madelyn Magee

Like chaff to the wind we will all scatter. Of course some will stay put, close to home, nearby, but apart we will still be. Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 3:15. Learning to learn. Monday through Friday, 8:15 to 2:55 learning to be yourself. Monday through Friday 8:10 to 2:55 learning to think, learning to speak, learning to run, jump, play. Learning to hope, learning to interact, learning who you are and what you are good at. Learning what you will be and always striving to be something, do something. Walk through the halls and imagine, remember. First time in a red plaid jumper. (*What is this?*). First time in a red plaid skirt. (*Alright, a skirt!*). First time in khaki skirt. (*Good riddance red plaid!*). Last days in a khaki skirt. (*Thank the Lord, no more khaki!*). Who I was and who I am now are not the same. And I’m not the only one. While only trying to survive, we matured like wheat in a field. Until now, we were in pursuit. We did the problem sets; we used

the MOOC stamp. We read the novels; we wrote the responses. We came to practice and we smoked the competition (or did our best to). And we put in the time and we pulled off the performance. We are the harvest ready, the cultivated grass. We have been carefully tended and like wheat from the field, harvested, we will go our separate directions and follow our different paths.

Bear Creek—it may one day be hard to remember this day, this year, or even this school. Already Lower School recess feels like a distant dream. Basketball games will be deeply missed events. But let’s celebrate today. Let’s celebrate the basketball games, the school wide production of *The Music Man* that many of us got to be a part of. Let’s not forget the canvas cabins on the biology trip and camping at Mount Saint Helens in sixth grade or traveling all over Washington and Oregon by yellow bus as eighth graders. I know I will always remember a few poignant events. The list of course goes on and includes wild teacher quotes, hilarious student antics, and class drama (which everyone is well aware of). The years, especially high school, also included failures, and important discoveries. Experiences became richer, more appreciated as the community kept reminding us this was the last advisory or this was the last khaki skirt day. Let’s be grateful, now that these lasts have passed, and remember how we got here and to whom we are indebted for who we have become.

### Sterling Miller

*At Commencement, ASB President Sterling Miller shared heartfelt memories of nearly every student in the class of 2012. Excerpts of his speech are included here.*

Regret. When I think of the class of 2012, this is the word that comes to mind. Now allow me to explain, regret is defined as feeling sad or disappointed that something has been drawn out to its conclusion—that an opportunity has been missed. Now when I was asked to reflect on my time here at The Bear Creek School, being the wise senior that I now am, I have become aware of all the events and moments I have the pleasure of experiencing and how I may never get the chance to experience those moments

again. Moments that I could have cherished but didn’t. People I should have spoken to. Moments of silence when others needed words—many words—but more often than not, too few actions. Regrets often facilitate reflection, reflection to processing, and with processing the events of our lives, we learn what it means to truly grow.

I share my regret of missed opportunities to listen more, watch more, laugh more, cry more, discover more, and to know you more—my fellow classmates. The lesson I have learned and leave with you, Class of 2012, is this: do not make the same mistakes I made as you turn down a new path on the road that is life. Time stops for no man. If there is one thing I do not regret it was deciding to take a step through the front doors of Redmond Campus on the first day of freshman year. Who would I be without these individuals to shape and form me? What would I have missed? Out of all the things that I have missed, or that flew by without giving a passing glance, I would not change the way my high school years played out at The Bear Creek School for anything. Both the teachers and students here have taught me that sometimes you must learn how to recover from a fall before you can learn to stand on your own, that sometimes it is better to ride the wave than helplessly fight the rough current. That when the sky is falling and the earth turns to ash, there are very few things that will truly matter to man, his experiences and memories, friends and families, and God who sustains everything.

It is a favorite quote of mine (for anyone who has read the yearbook) that



when an individual was asked, “What is my destiny?” a very profound response was given, “That is something you have to figure out for yourself—to do the best with what God gave you.” Life is simple, you make choices and you do not look back. Know who you are, who your friends are, and what you can and cannot do. Never pass up an opportunity to better yourselves. For one day when the curtain finally closes on this amazing production titled “Life Here on Earth”, I hope and pray that the word regret is never used to describe what that life is worth.

### Katelyn Petrin

Awhile back, I somehow made it to some sort of large, inter-district spelling bee. Now, this spelling bee was hosted at a plaid-skirt-infested school—one by the name of Bear Creek.

I lost in about the second round, when I spelled “traceable” in some odd convolution that would’ve sounded out like TRACCABLELE. By the, oh, sixth hour of violent spell-offs, only two remained. These kids may have been wearing nerdy white polos and wrinkled navy trousers (or I may have belatedly hallucinated it). Either way, they were Bear Creek, and they were spelling like lexicons.

Then the judge flubbed some sort of protocol.

A death fell over the already-silent room. Then the parents stood, pointing aggressively. The judge fluttered and looked about ready to crawl under a desk. One speller should have won right there, and it was the rule confusion that pushed the battle onward—everyone knew it. The parents glared. The children sweated. The words got longer and longer. But no one quit.

After the flying letters settled, we left in awed silence. “Mom,” I said, “those people are crazy.”

A few years later, I decided I wanted to try the Bear Creek kind of crazy. So I showed up out of the blue, two weeks into freshman year. Everyone seemed a little confused about where I’d come from (but I soon wormed my way into their hearts, and they into mine). And then the Bear Creek crazy started.

I should have known, in the moment



that Joy decided “the ratio of chicken to salad is all wrong” in someone’s meal. There was even more Bear Creek crazy than I had thought. But every moment surprised and delighted. On the Rome trip, we racked up mountains of international fail points with Kendall and Danielle. On the Albania trip, we met a supposed Olympic wrestler, the snarkiest six-year-old girl you have ever seen, and an octopus. (His name is Malcolm, by the way.)

In class, I received an education in logical and rhetorical concepts that terrifies my friends from other schools. The biology class watched this “yay! Parenthood!” video and were permanently scarred by the father who talked about the family whale noises they make at the baby. One humanities class that shall go unnamed attempted to have on-topic discussions with half the debate team present, and instead argued about obscure philosophy for forty minutes. The Latin class picked up our skills by following stories about a guy named Salvius, who is as weirdly stingy about his golden cauldrons as a man can get. Then there was AP Chemistry. Enough said. We learned often, learned well, learned big—and did it all with God in every word.

My first not-adult-accompanied drive on the highway occurred with the tennis girls in my car. When we reached school, I am pretty sure Reeves kissed the ground. In cross country, there was the wearing of tutus, flaunting of boas, and wielding of lightsabers for the Tomahawk Twilight late-night rec race. Anna and I running around screaming “FOR NARNIA” and breaking

into spontaneous unchoreographed Star Wars battles.

It’s all pretty Bear Creek crazy.

It was an unexpected ride from start to finish. I learned more than I could have ever dreamed, and grew about as much as can be expected for a highschooler. Helping me were a group of fantastic teachers. Watching over me were my fantastic parents. Walking with me were some fantastic students. All around me was this fantastic place. And I am pretty sure I will be Bear Creek crazy forever.

### Elizabeth Probus

I did not know, in freshman year, that I was supposed to take notes. I’m serious. It struck me in January that everybody else was getting out four months’ worth of history notes to study for the final, and I was left only with the compiled memory of dozens of lectures and a few quickly jotted study guides from previous tests. I survived that final and quickly learned that my study techniques needed some... adaptation. But there were more things than class that I could have taken notes on. I only have a vague memory of much of my first year of high school. A few experiences still bubble to the top of my memory—first dances, drama performances, maybe the occasional class period—but the real bulk of my day-to-day as a fifteen-year-old Bear Creek student is lost to the recesses of my mind. I know this happens to all of us, we live our lives minutes and hours at a time, and in all the movement and minutia of it all we never stop to commit anything to memory. We never think that there’s anything noteworthy in our day-to-day. How were we to know that we would someday be quizzed on it, on a stage, in front of hundreds of people?

So here I am, finishing four years of high school as an entirely different woman than the little girl who started them, and I have no idea what changed, or how, or when. Somewhere between struggling through *Julius Caesar* and portraying Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, I went from dismissing Shakespeare’s words as flowery nonsense to almost tangibly feeling the beauty in them. I am still not a “math person,” but I have learned to be amazed by the complexity and elegance of the

world that is revealed in math. I have seen strangers become my intimate friends, but I don’t know when; I recall the laughter, but not the jokes, the tears but not the reasons.

It is my first and best and most beautiful relationship that has changed the most—the more time I have spent



with Jesus Christ, the more I have come to realize that I have barely even begun to know Him. Our God is so infinitely vast, so perfectly holy, and so overwhelmingly loving, it is beyond the stretches of imagination. And as my view of God has grown and changed my understanding of my own self, my worth and purpose has gained greater definition. I have discovered just a little bit more of who I am. In short, I’ve grown up—we all have. We were all too distracted by due dates, driving tests, SATs, prom dresses, and summer jobs to realize what was going on, but every passing day has further defined us as adults.

Like crashing waves slowly, unnoticeably smoothing jagged rocks into beautiful stones, so have we been changed, one bit at a time. The waves were our classes, our homework, our papers and our teachers, our family and friends, our jokes and our tears, our stretches of boredom and moments of excitement. They were our last-minute study sessions, exhausting soccer practices, and late nights writing debate cases, they were the ear-splitting cheers for every basketball victory, and the hundreds of prayers we have shared as a group. These last four years have formed each of us into a sort of natural cathedral, complex and

beautiful creations designed to draw the eyes of those around us up to God.

### Nicholas Van Baak

Standing up here, I am reminded of a scene in *Pirates of the Caribbean* where Jack Sparrow and Will Turner are standing on the bridge of a Royal Navy ship. Captain Jack says, “Everyone remain calm! We are taking over this ship!”

It’s a big ship, probably takes about sixty to crew. They were laughed at.

In our case, there are less than sixty of us with a whole world to crew, and here you are, weeping quietly for your outbound offspring. But we are thinking the same thing—it is too big a future, and there are not enough of us.

I have attended this school since 7th grade, which means, heading in or out, I have walked past that shiny golden mission statement in the front lobby probably a couple thousand times without looking at it. You know how it is. But I went back to read it, and it struck me that Bear Creek’s mission is mostly passive—the school provides firstly, an education, and secondly, a nurturing environment. Basically, the teachers and administrators are leaving all the tools lying out in faith that God will do something with them—kind of like my dad’s half of the garage. They are building instruments on the assumption that God is going to hand us sheet music. That is a faith-based education model.

My story at Bear Creek was a kind of violin melody—a zippy three-note pattern on the English, History, and Christian Studies strings, some Music Theory with Mr. Higbee thrown in, and a couple of offbeat, out-of-key notes on the Math string, which we can only hope play into some larger concerto. Throw in everyone else’s melodies and you’ll find it makes a beautiful counterpoint: the Class of 2012 Symphony.

Our symphony started with Middle School, our dress rehearsal. Everyone is out of key. No one has practiced his or her part. Mr. Woollard is shaking his head and checking our uniforms because at this stage we have not even gotten our routine responsibilities down. But there are also the other teachers, reminding us of our parts and generally being as helpful as is possible



with middle schoolers. And by the end of the night, we grudgingly conclude that maybe something good might come of this.

Then we perform. We start out strong—Mr. Sorensen’s crazy dances, Mr. Norris’ well-timed sarcasm. We learn chemistry and how to spot bad puns from Miss Bell, mostly by my own personal example. Mrs. Tasche motivates us with baked goods. Mr. MacKenney continues to insist, in the face of mountains of empirical evidence, that calculus is easy. Mrs. Dunn infects us with her enthusiasm for viruses. Mr. Joyner hands out the strangely incongruous “Lollipops of Knowledge” for mature, scholarly achievement. Miss Dennison insists we are getting to *Pride and Prejudice* by next Monday... really. Dr. Nelson answers every philosophical question in the last three thousand years. Mr. Davison argues both sides of those conversations and wins every time. I do not have time to name all the others, but their influence is just as deeply felt.

We are reaching the end here, and a lot of us have been starting to feel out of breath. But you are sitting here in this place listening, to what Mr. Higbee would tell you, is a perfect authentic cadence. And what we are finding is that this is not the end but just the first movement. So, parents, as we move on, I ask you to continue that statement of faith you made by getting us here today, and to watch and enjoy. Trust the composer. Because as Paul says in Philippians 1:6, “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion, until the day of Christ Jesus.”

## Spring Sports 2012

### Golf

After winning the district championship, the Lady Grizzlies finished third in the 1B/2B Golf State Championships with junior Morgan Cadigan placing fifth overall and her teammate junior Sarah Witt taking 16th place. Cadigan also earned the league championship trophy as medalist in the Sea-Tac 1B/2B League Championship Tournament.

The boys golf team also brought home hardware from the State tournament, finishing fourth at State with junior Ricky Olson leading the way, finishing seventh overall. In the field of 80 golfers, senior Jacob Imam placed 18th and freshman Colin Diamond finished in 35th place. In addition to placing at State, the boys team won its fifth consecutive Sea-Tac 1B/2B League Championship. Imam, Olson, and Diamond also received all-league first team honors.



Morgan Cadigan and Sarah Witt, both juniors, accept the third place girls golf team trophy from WIAA tournament site manager Tim Tubbs. Morgan was also the medalist at the District Championship Tournament and earned a fifth place medal at State.

### WIAA Scholastic Cup Champions

At the end of the 2011-2012 school year, Bear Creek captured its fourth consecutive Scholastic Cup (and sixth overall). The WIAA Scholastic Cup competition is a year-long program designed by the WIAA and awarded to the top school in each of the six WIAA classifications. The WIAA Scholastic Cup is emblematic of the top interscholastic programs in Washington that display excellence in academics, sportsmanship, and athletics performances throughout the school year. Representatives of the program sponsor Army/National Guard were on hand to present the award to Athletics Director Chad Pohlman at the Upper School Honors Assembly last June.

### Girls Tennis

The tennis regular season culminated at the Emerald City 1A League Tennis Championships at the Amy Yee Tennis Center. Several Grizzlies represented Bear Creek well and battled their way through the tournament. Senior Katie Petrin and

junior Elena Tagadiuc won two doubles matches at the tournament but eventually lost a “winner to advance” match on the second day.



Team captain Katelyn Petrin, senior, plays at the net during an April tennis match at Skyline.



Ricky Olson, junior, tees up on the 18th hole at Oakbrook Golf Course in Lakewood at the end of day two of the State Championship tournament. Ricky hit 85 both days for a two-day total of 170 points, placing seventh overall.

### Track & Field

The Grizzlies came home with plenty of medals from the 2B State Track & Field Championships held at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, including a third consecutive High Jump State Championship for senior Madelyn Magee. Magee’s jump of 5’9” set a personal record, a school record, and tied the



Madelyn Magee, senior, won her third consecutive 2B State High Jump Championship with a personal record, clearing 5’9”.

2B State record. Other medal-winning performances include senior Morgan Rial’s fourth place finish in both the 300M hurdles and 400M, along with a third place finish in the 800M relay with teammates seniors Elizabeth Fernandez, Danielle Isbell, and Magee, and a fifth place finish in the 400M relay with teammates Fernandez, Isbell, and sophomore Bridget

Daugherty. Magee also finished in sixth place in the long jump. Overall the girls team finished in sixth place. The boys 400M relay team (seniors Kerry Culbert-O’Leary, Lucas Fernandez, Mark Phillips, and sophomore Jesse Leuenberger) won the District Championship with a new school record (44.94) and brought home seventh place medals from the State meet.



Morgan Rial, senior, placed fourth in the 300M hurdles, capturing four medals at the 2B Track & Field State Championships last May.

### Baseball

The “Growls” (combined baseball team of Grizzlies from Bear Creek and Owls from Overlake) had a fantastic season culminating in an Emerald City 1A League Championship. The team finished with an overall record of 11-6 (10-2 in league) and advanced to the district tournament where they lost two hard fought games to Charles Wright Academy and Orting. Senior Aaron DiGenova received an Emerald City League Honorable Mention and was named MVP at the 2B/1A Regional All Star Game, earning an all-state game nomination. Freshman Peter Perkins was named Emerald City League Rookie of the Year.



First baseman Peter Perkins, freshman, at bat during the Growls 10-0 victory over Bush on April 20. Peter batted .425 during the spring season.

### Boys Lacrosse

As part of a pilot program, five Upper School students participated on the Overlake boys lacrosse team. After finishing a perfect 11-0 in league, the team advanced to State where they defeated Ballard (12-11) in the first round, but lost a heartbreaking match to Garfield on a last second goal in the State quarterfinals.



Middle Parker Hayne, freshman, got some playing time in the Owl’s early season win over the Klahowya Eagles (20-2).

# Gallery

Education in the fine arts develops personal expression, creative thinking, imaginative communication, and intellectual curiosity. We all can create because we are creatures made in the image of God. Bear Creek student art expresses the nature of reality and truth, as well as the significance of beauty.



Above: Kindergarten classes made a mural inspired by Wassily Kandinsky's famous painting, *Squares with Concentric Circles*. Starting with three primary colors, red, blue, and yellow, the students mixed all these glorious colors.



Left: Kate M. and her grade 3 classmates learned about aboriginal dot painting and practiced contour line drawing while using tempera paint to create brightly colored paintings.



Left: Grade 4 students focused on the art elements of line and color and were challenged to use as many different types of lines as they could think of with the cool colors of water and the warm colors of the sun. *Lines* by August C.

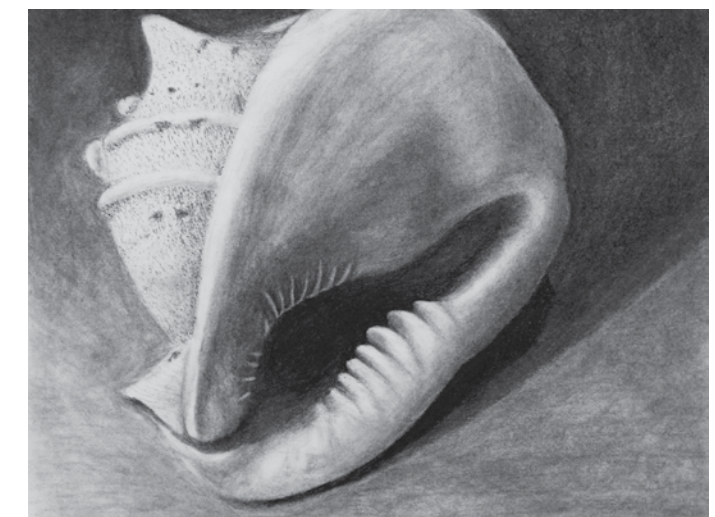
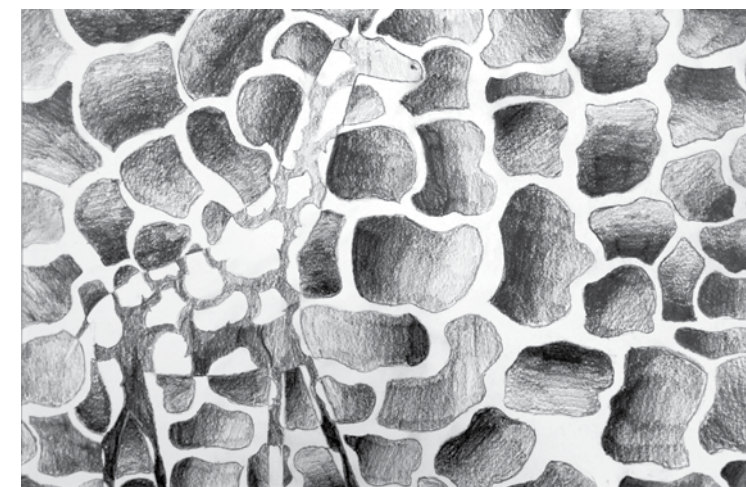
Right: Grade 5 student Crystal R. and fellow classmates learned about negative space and "drawing with scissors" when creating collages inspired by Henri Matisse's masterpiece, *Beasts of the Seas*.



Right: Middle School art students studied positive and negative space by creating a silhouette with a torn paper collage and then transforming the subject matter using acrylic paint to fill the negative space. *Parachute* by Colby C., grade 7



Below: Middle School art students developed an understanding of value (dark and light) by drawing an object, dissecting the image using lines to create various shapes, and then using pencil to shade a value scale within each created shape. The resulting image appears shattered by use of value scales. *Giraffe* by Hannah B., grade 8

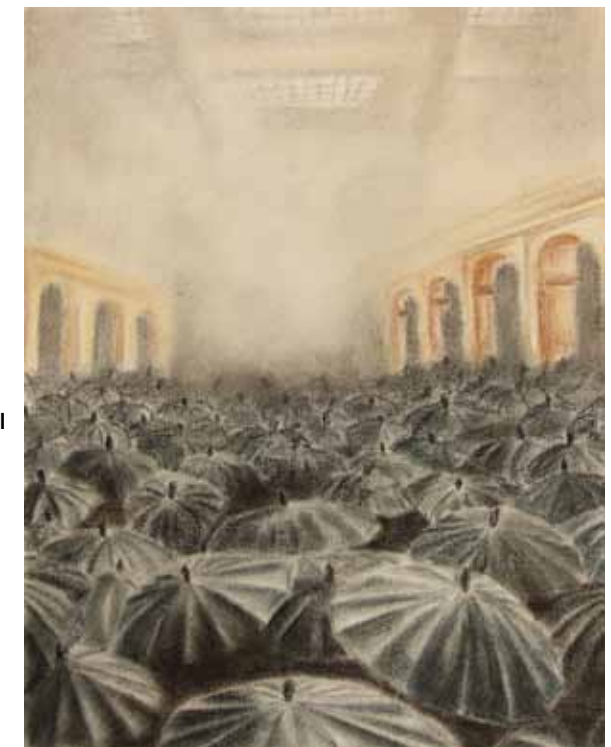


Below: Inspired by Louis Pasteur, who said, "The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the creator," Upper School studio art students were challenged to observe and accurately record contour and defining lines of a shell still life. Then students developed their shading skills as they observed the light illuminating the shell and recorded the various values created. Dean Hargrave, senior

Below: Aaron DiGenova, senior, took this self-portrait during JanTerm 2012 in Miss Hunter's (now Mrs. Miller) digital portraiture seminar. Students learned to use the self-timer on a DSLR camera, studio lighting techniques, as well as retouching tools in Photoshop.



Right: Upper School studio art students learned about the art technique called *trompe-l'œil* (trick of the eye) involving extremely realistic imagery that uses optical illusion to depict objects in three dimensions. Students practiced observational drawing, line drawing, and continued to develop shading skills, showing a full range of values. Elena Tagadiuc, junior



# Performing Arts

The classical model is alive and well in the performing arts at Bear Creek. As students begin to learn the rudiments of their instrument, to read music, or to memorize their lines, they are learning in the grammar stage. Developing and honing their skills through practice represents the dialectic stage. And finally, it is in the performance where the fruits of all that practice and learning come together to be outwardly expressed with precision and confidence, exemplifying the rhetoric stage of learning.

## A Midsummer Night's Dream

February 9, 2012

Grade 6 students performed a rich adaptation of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The play was double cast with different students playing each role before and after intermission.



## The Merchant of Venice

March 9, 2012

Grade 4 students at Redmond Campus treated the audience to an adaptation of *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare.

## ACSI High School Choral Festival

March 15-16, 2012

Ten Bear Creek choral groups, including the Upper School choir, performed at the ACSI High School Choral Festival held at Overlake Christian Church in March. Each group performed for adjudication and was rated on a I-V scale (I=Superior). All the Bear Creek groups received a Superior rating. The girls quintet won their category and gave a command performance of "Prayer for the Gifts" at the end of the festival.



## The Comedy of Errors

March 16, 2012

Grade 4 students at Valley Campus performed an adaptation of *The Comedy of Errors* by William Shakespeare.

## Kindergarten Drama Performances

March 29, 2012

Redmond Campus kindergarten students presented *And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon*, adapted from a book by Janet Stevens.

April 27, 2012

Valley Campus kindergarten students presented *The True Princess*, an adaptation of *The Princess and the Pea* by Hans Christian Andersen.



## State Solo and Ensemble Contest

April 27-28, 2012

Junior Miya Higashiyama won first place in the mezzo-soprano category at the WIAA/WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest held April 27-28 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Miya competed along with 45 other singers in the mezzo-soprano category and received a Superior (I) rating from all three judges. Miya performed two pieces, "Non so più" from *Le Nozze di Figaro*, by Mozart and "Lullaby" from *The Consul*, by Gian Carlo Menotti.

## US Band and Choir Spring Concert

May 3, 2012

The Upper School band performed memorable pieces including the *Transit of Venus March* by John Philip Sousa. The Upper School choir students sang together and in several smaller ensemble groups, including for the first time ever, a group of men-only who performed "Prayer for the Children" by Kurt Bestor. Miya Higashiyama reprised her first place performance at the State Solo and Ensemble Contest.



## Mothers Tea

May 11, 2012

At both Redmond Campus and Valley Campus, Lower School students serenaded their mothers with a collection of sentimental and humorous songs including "The 'Mom' Song" by Anita Refroe.

## An Evening with Authors and Artists

May 17, 2012

At Redmond Campus, the Lower School string ensemble performed at this large event featuring visual art from students in grades K-12 (see pages 16-17). Other performances included vignettes from recent Lower School Shakespeare plays and the upcoming production of *Oliver Twist*.

May 24, 2012

At Valley Campus, parents enjoyed their children's art and books while also having the opportunity to enjoy piano and violin performances by several students.

## Oliver Twist

May 18-19, 2012

Dr. Ron Lynch adapted and directed Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* for the Upper School spring drama production. The cast and audience enjoyed the intricately detailed sets during all four performances on the Cornerstone Theater stage. Junior Katie Matthews played the title role, while junior Jake Casale took on the infamous Fagin, and senior Connor Thomas was convincing as the evil Bill Sikes. Freshman Drew Yutrzecka played the Artful Dodger.



## Grades 5 & 6 Bands and Grade 6 Choir Spring Concert

May 22, 2012

The annual Spring Concert featured performances by both bands and the choir as well as instrumental and vocal soloists and ensembles from each group. The grade 6 band concluded the evening with a rendition of "Jazz Cantate" by Andy Beck.



## MS Band and Choir Spring Concert

May 24, 2012

At the Spring Concert, the Middle School band performed a spirited rendition of "God Bless America" by Irving Berlin. The Middle School choir concluded the evening with Otis Redding's "Respect" featuring solos by Mara K., Tolu S., and Kaylie H., plus Burke J. and Dr. Ron Lynch both on saxophone, and James G. on drums.

# Faculty Profile Kellie Anderson

By Dani DuBois '10

Photo by Sini Fernandez



Think back to your child's first day of school—the excitement, the anxiety, and above all the prayers for a comforting teacher who will engage your child and keep him or her safe. Now imagine walking your trepidatious little one to his or her classroom, opening the door, and coming face to face with a loud and loveable lion.

This is precisely how Kellie Anderson's prekindergarten students and their parents are greeted on their first day. Well, not a lion in the traditional feline sense, but a fiercely passionate, protective, and curious personality nonetheless. And that lion, of course, is Kellie.

In her classroom, Kellie identifies her students using personality traits fashioned after four animals: lion, otter, beaver, and golden retriever. Because of her visionary, big-picture thinking, Kellie falls under the lion category. She is dynamic and animated, tells incredible stories, and easily captures the attention and excitement of her impressionable students.

"There's something magical about that prekindergarten room," said preschool teacher Allison Fletcher, who shares a classroom with Kellie. "She makes everything the best thing they've ever done."

And that's true. Kellie innately brings life and excitement into her teaching. She's known for her curriculum centered around alphabet people who teach her students the letters in a fun, goofy way that's perfect for four and five year olds. Not only does Kellie introduce these letter friends to the kids, she embraces them, as well. She fondly recounts one year when the day she introduced Mr. H with the Horrible Hair fell on the same day as the Walk-a-thon. As always, she mussed up her own hair in a horrible way for her lesson on the letter H, and kept it horrible for the duration of the day—Walk-a-thon included.

Beyond the curriculum, Kellie's contagious zest extends to her students, and in turn, the creativity of her students spurs Kellie on. Sometimes, she said, a student may appear to be doing things incorrectly, but she only needs to let a student explain his or her thought-process to realize the student has left her in the dust. For example, she describes an activity in which she asks students to sort objects by attributes. Each student needs to choose three objects, two that have the same attribute and one that does not. One particular student selected a pencil, a pen, and a tube of Chapstick. Naturally the Chapstick is the odd object, right? Well, wrong, according to this student. The student reasoned that the pencil is in fact unlike the others because it does not have a cap, whereas the pen and the Chapstick do.

"Kellie always gives her students the benefit of the doubt," Allison said of times when Kellie notices a student doing an activity in an unusual way. "She asks them, 'Tell me about your pattern' and knows that most of the time the child has thought of something 'outside the box' that she did not expect, but is nonetheless on target."

"I love to hear what the kids have to say," Kellie said. "As long as they're learning the concepts, then I let them run with it."

Kellie uses her vivacious lion personality to her advantage

within the classroom. "It's great when the kids hijack my lesson plan—their curiosity excites me!" she said. As a result, if a student has a question about something that doesn't fit into her lesson plan, Kellie enthusiastically pursues that avenue and lets the plan be derailed.

"She's great with on-the-spot learning," Allison said. "She goes with the flow, and easily balances the schedule with spontaneous learning opportunities."

But, though lions notoriously pay little attention to detail, Kellie notices subtle nuances in each of her students.

"Kellie sees the best in every student," Allison said. "She sees that God made them that way and asks herself, 'How can I bring out the best in this child?'"

Parent Kathy Keith admires Kellie for her insight into her students. "Kellie said to me, 'Your daughter is very thoughtful—and not just thoughtful, but thought-filled.'" Later, Kathy said in jest to her husband, "I think Mrs. Anderson knows Ainsley better than we do!"

Kellie clearly emphasizes the traits of each individual child as intentionally designed by the Lord. "She has joy and pure love of the kids," Kathy said. "She sees them as a unique creation of God. She sees them through His eyes, and she's able to pull out of them what God has put in them." Kathy pointed specifically to Kellie's curriculum as evidence of this. Kellie has her students memorize Scripture, instilling in them that God knit each of them together in his or her mother's womb in a specific, intentional way.

"I don't want to control the kids; I want them to learn how to control themselves," Kellie said. "I want to help them understand how God made them and how they can cooperate with God."

As an example, Kellie relays the story of one student who struggled to maintain a positive attitude in class. Instead of harsh reprimands, Kellie spoke with the student one-on-one, explaining that he is

a leader—a lion—to whom other students will listen and whose behavior they will follow. And with that, she explained, comes a greater responsibility, a God-given responsibility to be a good example for his peers. Even at his young age, this sank in, and that student changed his behavior and took on a new attitude.

While Kellie naturally maintains a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere for her classroom, she simultaneously takes her position as a prekindergarten teacher very seriously. "Because of their age, my students are very teachable," she said. "I don't take that lightly. The responsibility to speak the truth to them is so great."

Because of her conviction, Kellie stresses the degree of her love for her students, striving to always love them as God loves them. She reiterates to them that she loves them when they make good choices and when they make bad choices both—she loves them unconditionally because they are created by God.

"My love for you will never change," she says to her students—a sentiment she will roar with the earnest and tender passion of a mother lion, that she will fiercely protect and never give up.

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**Kellie uses her vivacious lion personality to her advantage within the classroom. "It's great when the kids hijack my lesson plan—their curiosity excites me!" she said.**

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# BEAR CREEK ALUMNI

People of wisdom, compassion, and courage who use their individual gifts to bring truth, beauty, and goodness to the communities in which they live.

## Class Notes

### Announcing the Alumni Leadership Steering Committee for 2012-2013

The following Bear Creek graduates have accepted the nomination submitted by alumni-at-large to serve on the 2012-2013 Alumni Leadership Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is planning to tackle an impressive agenda this year. They plan to draft and approve an Alumni Program mission statement, evaluate current program elements, and to cast a vision for long-term alumni engagement in building the legacy of The Bear Creek School. See Class Notes for updates from the 2012-2013 committee members:



Nate Castle '08



Michael Davisson '10



Abby Gomulkiewicz '11



Beth Graham '09



Alex Higinbotham '07



Tyler Kowal '04

### Class of 2002

#### MenSok Kim

Congratulations to MenSok and his wife Tania who welcomed the birth of their son, Michael on August 29, weighing in at 7 pounds 2 ounces. The Kim family resides in New York City.



### Class of 2003

#### Danny Jacobson

Danny continues to work for the investment banking division of Wells Fargo in Los Angeles. He recently got engaged to his girlfriend, Susanna Kohly, and they are happily planning their wedding in Miami this February.

### Class of 2004

#### Jonathon Brammer

Congratulations to Jonathon who married his sweetheart Kaley Hickson on June 24.

#### Elizabeth Burke

Elizabeth graduated from Columbia University four years ago, and since then has spent two years working as a research analyst for the management consulting firm McKinsey & Company before deciding to take a year off to write music.

She believes that living without a 9-5 job in New York is basically paradise. She recorded an album with the bass player from the Late Show with David Letterman, Will Lee; Alice Cooper's guitarist and drummer, Al Pitrelli and Jon Mover; and a longtime family friend/fiddler, Mark O' Connor. They are finalizing distribution details and fairly soon you will be able to buy it on iTunes. Eventually she went back to work, managing a New York magazine's ad sales research department. About a year later, she was recruited by a startup called The Levo League, a professional network for women beginning their careers. She has been managing and writing their editorial content and helping to build a recruiting tool, interactive mentorship interface, and e-commerce platform. She sits on the board of several organizations including a fusion dance company and an organization called Women in Wireless, where she manages editorial content and facilitates media partnerships.

#### Lydia Imhoff

In December Lydia started working for L'Arche, an international organization which creates communities of people with and without developmental disabilities. These communities live together, eat together, worship together, and take care of each other. Lydia lives in Angeline House, which is one of three houses in the Seattle neighborhood of Capitol Hill, with seven other housemates. She has been learning about caring for people, cooking, cleaning, being cared for, as well as her own weaknesses and needs. Each day is a new surprise, and an opportunity to learn and grow.

#### Tyler Kowal

Tyler holds a degree in accounting and finance from Gonzaga and works as a senior auditor at Deloitte and Touche. In his free time, Tyler volunteers for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, participates in the First Connection Program, manages and plays for the Deloitte soccer team which will be competing next May in the Deloitte World Cup in Prague, and brews his own beer. Tyler is serving on Bear Creek's alumni



## Nick Williams, Class of 2007

In 2011 Nick graduated from Williams College with two degrees, one in studio art with a concentration in architecture and a second degree in environmental policy, culminating in an honors project—an exhaustive proposal

to purchase and develop a protected community recreation site in northwest Massachusetts. After graduation, Nick returned to the Seattle area, set up a small studio, and took on some freelance conceptual design work.

In late 2011, Nick began working for the Barka Foundation, a non-profit, humanitarian organization working to promote peace and sustainability initiatives in Burkina Faso, a small, land-locked West African country. Nick researched vegetation native to Burkina Faso and the efficacy of certain plants as antiseptic and medicinal agents. He also conducted a feasibility study for a simple, sustainable solar energy storage system. French is a common language spoken in Burkina Faso, and Nick translated many documents for the foundation. He credits his mom, as well as Bear Creek's former French teacher Mme Garceau with having nurtured his love of the language.

But it was Venezuela calling Nick to his next venture. This past August, he seized an opportunity to live abroad by accepting a temporary position as a grade school teacher at Escuela Las Morochas in Ciudad Ojeda, an international, English-speaking school in the oil-rich area outside Maracaibo, Venezuela. At the end of his temporary assignment, Nick accepted a two-year assignment as a high school math and science teacher for the school. While teaching in Venezuela, he will also pursue an M.Ed. in international education at the American university. Although Nick had not planned to go into teaching, one thing is clear—he had many great teachers to model for him then, what he finds himself striving to model for his students today.

When asked to reflect upon his years at Bear Creek and the influence his experiences have had on his teaching, it is clear that the Upper School faculty made a positive and memorable impact. He remembers how Coach Moe embraced him on the team, and how now-retired Upper School Division Head Mrs. Hernandez made an effort to seek him out every day, taking a personal interest in his life. Nick shares how his respect for Miss Dennison and Mr. MacKenney continues to grow. He attributes his love of discovery to his science teachers, Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Dunn, and to former Bear Creek teacher, Mrs. Cain who literally lit up chemistry for him. Nick recalls how Mr. Sorensen made history interesting, and how Mr. Joyner made history arguable. And speaking of argument, Nick says that Mr. Norris' challenge to raise the bar in rhetoric class was instrumental in preparing him well for college and beyond.

Nick does not know where the road, with its twists and turns, may take him in the future, but one thing he does know is this: "Throughout my life, I've been fortunate to have had teachers and mentors who championed their students and encouraged the best in and for each of their students—and at Bear Creek, prayed for their students. It was a real gift." And so, Nick hopes that gift will be one that he passes on to his students so that they too may be inspired to live a life worthy of an honorable calling—whenever and wherever that may be.

# To Kenya and Back

By Beth Graham '09



This summer, after finishing my junior year at Washington State University, I was blessed with the opportunity to spend nine weeks in Kenya. I am studying neuroscience and hoping to attend medical school after I graduate, and have felt a call to medical missions for many years. Family friends who were once missionaries in Kenya helped me to establish connections there, and I set up a trip in order to gain some experience in the field of medicine in the developing world.

My first destination was a small town called Kimilili, located in western Kenya, where I worked and stayed at Interchristian Fellowship's Evangelical Mission (IcFEM), a small mission organization started and staffed by Kenyans and aided by several missionaries from the U.K. Some of my time in Kimilili was spent at the mission hospital, where I gave several lectures on neuroanatomy, shadowed doctors, and watched twenty-five cataract surgeries in one day. I helped with medical outreach programs in nearby communities, working on a program (WASH) to teach children about hand washing, sanitation, and hygiene.

Traveling with the medical teams to visit schools, we often mounted a "jigger campaign." Jiggers are small fleas that burrow into human flesh to lay their eggs, usually in a person's feet, and sometimes in their hands and knees. Jiggers thrive in dusty conditions and primarily affect the poor, causing itchy discomfort and possible infection. To treat the jiggers, we would wash the feet of the children (it's a humbling experience to wash the filthy feet of thirty children and realize that's exactly what Jesus would do for you). Then we would soak the children's feet in a solution of hydrogen peroxide and water to kill the jiggers. Finally, I would sit each child down across from me, put his foot in my lap, and use simple razor blades and surgical needles to expose the jiggers and then remove them. Honestly, I was surprised at the crudeness of the whole operation and frustrated with our inability to do more. When we finished with the process, the children usually had large, pea-sized holes on the bottoms of their feet and the best we

could do was to spray antiseptic on the wounds and send them barefoot back to their jigger-infested homes.

In July, I moved to a big city called Eldoret where I lived with the family of a Kenyan family doctor who worked in a private clinic. I spent two weeks shadowing doctors in the private clinic and then moved to the private hospital where I helped prepare medications, watched procedures and operations, and even got to give a few injections. In Eldoret I saw a very different side of healthcare than I had seen in the village. About half the patients had health insurance and most had money to pay for the tests and medications they needed. The facility was well-equipped and had quite a few modern lab machines. It was hard to wrap my mind around the disparity between well-developed pockets of the city and the impoverished suburbs, slums, and villages. I began to see Kenya as an interesting clash between the modern and developing world.

I was very inspired by my host-father Jakait, who not only sought to help people through his profession as a doctor, but was also working to help his fellow Kenyans through the political system to improve infrastructure, educate children, increase access to healthcare, and break the cycle of poverty. Many times I wanted to ask him how he dealt with the enormity of poverty and suffering around him—but then I realized that he was giving his life and his money in order to change his entire country. He was willing to sacrifice his time and salary for the people of Kenya. Once a very poor, single mother came into his clinic to ask for an abortion because she could not afford to support a fourth child. He was unwilling to perform the abortion, but offered to give her a job and adopt her unborn child. He followed through and hired her as the janitor at the hospital and offered to deliver the baby for free. She ended up delivering at home and keeping the child. In the process of it all, she has become his most faithful employee. What am I willing to sacrifice for others and for my country? Jakait's deep compassion and love really moved me. The contrast of Kenya to my world has been startling and impactful. I am not sure what the future holds for me, but the people and experiences in Kenya will shape so much of my vision forward.

At WSU I am working in a lab that studies the proteins and signaling cascades involved in neuron development in the brain. I also facilitate a course for freshmen in the Honors College that helps them to navigate life at college and learn about resources and opportunities offered by the university. I accepted the nomination to serve on the alumni leadership steering committee because I valued the opportunity to take an active role in a community that has blessed me immensely. My classmates, teachers, and the other staff at Bear Creek challenged me, encouraged me, and built a firm foundation for my future. Being a part of the Steering Committee is a chance for me to give back to this institution, to encourage other alumni to re-engage in the future of Bear Creek, and to find ways to leverage the incredible network we have at Bear Creek for the benefit of students, alumni, faculty, and parents alike.

leadership steering committee because, "I feel both the school and the 'older generation' have not done a good job of staying in touch. I want to help bridge the gap and reconnect with my peers."

## Class of 2005

### Erik Ball

Erik graduated with a master's degree in Greek and Latin languages and literature from Oxford University in 2010. He is an equity research analyst at New Constructs in Nashville, TN. He is engaged to Sarah Atkinson of Memphis and they will be married in October this year.

### Zach Buck

After graduating from Bear Creek and subsequent collegiate stints at Pepperdine University and the University of Washington, Zach was recruited by a San Francisco communications agency where he interned working on the eBay account. Realizing that San Francisco was no Seattle, he returned to the Northwest nine months later to take a position with Microsoft's communications agency. He has been back in town for a little over two years and has recently had the opportunity to complete his first Ironman and start his own consulting business—all of which took much more energy than anticipated. As of now, he is happily rooted in Seattle and is currently planning to cross two more items off his bucket list—the Tough Mudder race and climbing Mt. Rainier.

### Jessica Linnenkohl

Jessica has settled in Germany and is starting her own small farm. This growing season, she and a friend are starting a plant trading day to get to know other people in the area. She reports that life is so full and wonderful!

### Bobby Morgan

Bobby returned to the Northwest a year ago to teach math at an alternative high school in Bothell. In June 2011, Bobby married Emily. Last spring Bobby helped coach Bear Creek's golf teams to third and fourth place finishes at State.

### Dani Pohlman

Dani is working at Antioch Adoptions to help families adopt orphans from the state foster care system. She loves her job and has a passion for all orphans around the world. She feels blessed to have a job that is in a field that she is passionate about. She hopes to do more traveling when she gets the chance because she loves exploring other cultures and seeing the world.

## Class of 2006

### Kelli Geiger

Kelli graduated from the University of Washington in June 2011 with a B.S. in neurobiology and minors in Spanish and music. She spent this past year applying and interviewing for medical school and will attend the UW School of Medicine this fall. Her desire to become a family medicine physician serving underserved communities has been strengthened by her experiences this year as an AmeriCorps member at SeaMar Community Health Center in Burien where she has been working as a patient advocate, managing caseloads, and providing health education and social services to a diverse patient population.

### Bess (Snider) Navarrete

Bess received a B.S. in neurobiology with honors from the UW in June 2011. She then immediately started working as a lab tech in a developmental neurobiology lab on campus studying ion channel development in the embryonic mouse hindbrain. In September 2011, Bess married her college sweetheart, Jerel Navarrete, and they moved into an apartment in Wallingford. Just a few months later, Bess was called into ministry at their church in the U-District in the areas of leadership development and event planning full-time.

### Juliana Patrick

Juliana graduated from Seattle Pacific University in 2010 with a B.A. in language arts and elementary education. After college, she worked in Marseille, France, as an au pair and really enjoyed living abroad for a year. After working with students

in grades 1, 3, and 4, Juliana brings her passion for teaching and love of students to the grade 1 classroom at Bear Creek's Valley Campus.

## Class of 2007

### Mathew Brown

Mathew graduated from U.S. Army Ranger School in March this year and married his college sweetheart Corrine Gogert on September 2. The two attended Pacific Lutheran University together. Both Mathew and Corrine are serving as 2nd Lieutenants. Corrine is a nurse and Mathew is posted to a mechanized unit, both at Ft. Hood in Texas.



### Morgan (Mankis) Deal

Morgan is involved in real estate and is currently in the process of becoming a licensed agent. She and her husband are looking to expand their rental properties, while currently managing several rental homes. She works full-time at the front desk of a golf resort in addition to catering and serving banquets and weddings. Every moment that she's not working or at school, she spends adoring her precious little boy, Maddux.

### Evan Dunn

Evan graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in linguistics,

is married to Shannon, his beautiful wife, and is serving as a missionary to Seattle through Spoken Word poetry.

#### Alex Higinbotham

In 2011 Alex graduated from USC with a B.S. in business administration and is now living in West Seattle with fellow Bear Creek alumni Graeme Erickson '07 and Easton Thomas '05. He is currently working as a sales representative for Medical Dynamics and recently vacationed in a remote Canadian mountain range. He is excited for college football to start and is happy to discuss college life or give advice to current Bear Creek seniors and recent grads. He accepted the nomination to serve on Bear Creek's alumni leadership steering committee because, "I'm grateful for the education and high school experience that Bear Creek provided me, and I want others to have a close connection to the school like I do."

#### Jason Lin

Jason is loving the life in Vancouver, Canada, and enjoying all of the amazing Asian food! He has been working on entrepreneurial projects to start childcare and international student services in the Vancouver region.

#### Jamie Perry

Jamie is a fourth grade teacher at Bear Creek and has the privilege of working alongside Lena Whitlock, Denise Peeler, and Brian Hollis. Mrs. Whitlock was Jamie's fourth grade teacher. She was Jamie's favorite teacher and a true inspiration for her desire to become a teacher. Jamie joined the Bear Creek faculty after receiving her degree in elementary education from Seattle Pacific University and teaching grade 2 at Whittier Elementary in Seattle. Jamie recently moved into an apartment in Redmond with a roommate who is also an SPU graduate and a teacher. She will travel to Michigan in November to be a bridesmaid in a dear friend's wedding. She is looking forward to a wonderful and busy first year of teaching at Bear Creek!

## Class of 2008

#### Mel Bassi

Mel is working as a lab technician for the Upper School science department, focusing much of her time on lab preparation, equipment management, and protocol monitoring. She brings her passion for all things science to support the extensive hands-on application of the science curriculum. In addition, Mel is a Classroom Assistant for the Lower School math classes.

#### Nate Castle

Nate reports that, "Gonzaga was a great experience." He graduated last spring with a B.A. in marketing, a deeper love for learning, and many great memories. Nate recently accepted a position at Cbeyond in the technology division and had a wonderful vacation last summer touring Turkey and Greece. Nate is taking a position on Bear Creek's alumni leadership steering committee because, "I want to give back to Bear Creek and am looking forward to working and collaborating with a group of leaders who together will impact the direction of a promising alumni program."

#### Kyle Dunn

Kyle will be interning with Reformed University Fellowship at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. He is excited for the opportunity to share the gospel of God's free grace in Jesus to people like us all—in need of grace.

#### Chelsea Frantz

Chelsea graduated in June from Seattle Pacific University with a bachelor's degree in nutrition and dietetics. She has been selected for a dietetic internship at Syracuse University in New York this coming year, with the intention of becoming a registered dietitian upon completion of the internship.

#### Carolyn Heine

Carolyn graduated magna cum laude from Westmont College in December 2011. She will be attending the University of British Columbia beginning January

2013 to pursue a master's in library and information science.

#### Allie Hooker

Allie graduated from the University of Washington in June and interned at Waggener Edstrom Worldwide, a large public relations firm headquartered in Bellevue. At the University of Washington, she served as the president of the local Public Relations Student Society of America chapter and recently attended a national conference in Orlando, FL. She has loved every minute of her time at UW, mainly because of her choice to go Greek! She encourages all graduating seniors to consider joining a sorority or a fraternity, especially if the school you choose is large—it's a great way to make the university smaller, and to make friendships that will last a lifetime.

#### Todd Lien

Todd graduated in June with a B.S. in biochemistry and chemistry with minors in Spanish and music. Before graduating, he was involved with school choirs and medical research with the Seattle Children's Research Institute. Last May, he presented current research on renal disease at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and published the paper with his team. Soon after, his choir, Chamber Singers, performed Verdi's *Requiem* with the Seattle Youth Symphony at Benaroya Hall. During the spring, he applied for the upcoming medical school cycle starting in June 2012 for admission in fall 2013, while looking for job opportunities at hospitals and clinics all over the U.S.

#### Cara Linnenkohl

After completing her degree, Cara plans to stay in Charlottesville for another year and work with the Campus Crusade for Christ ministry Athletes in Action.

#### Sam Pomeroy

Having graduated from Baylor University, Sam is now earning a master's in Scripture and theology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland where he hopes to continue on for a Ph.D. He was recently engaged to the wonderful Cherie

## God's Provision

By John Geiger '09



Our plane hurtled onto the runway of Port au Prince International Airport at approximately 3:00 p.m. on June 13. Fifteen minutes later we walked off the plane into the ninety-five degree sauna that would be our home for the next two weeks. We waited to get our passports stamped and then raced with our luggage through crowds of energetic Haitians, who aggressively attempted to assist us with our bags in hope of earning an American dollar. Finally, our ten-member team from Central Washington University reached the two heavy-duty pickups that would be transporting us all over Haiti's bumpy roads. As we roared down busy streets, we soon learned that the right-of-way was determined by the size of your vehicle and the courage of your driver. Needless to say, we were all extremely grateful when we reached our lodging place for the night. After spending the first night in Port au Prince, we hopped back into the trucks for a two hour drive to Tricotte, the village where we would spend the remainder of our trip.

Seeing extreme poverty and brokenness everywhere had a big impact on me as we traveled. Trash and rubble were everywhere and each building looked as if it were falling apart. In addition, we saw hundreds of Haitians on every street, quickly realizing that many of them had nowhere else to live. It was heartbreaking. The hardest part was learning about the widespread corruption throughout Haiti that prevents financial aid from reaching those who need it the most.

We finally arrived at the guesthouse in Tricotte, set up mosquito nets, learned how to flush our toilets manually, and explored some of the village. The countryside is beautiful, with many mango trees and other exotic plants, and we were amazed at the intricate cactus fences that separated each Haitian's property. After dinner, we spent the evening resting and preparing spiritually for the hard work of the next two weeks. Our main purpose was to minister to an orphanage

in Tricotte that was devoted to bringing up children with a biblical foundation and a personal relationship with God. On a typical day, our team started at 7:00 a.m. with breakfast and then personal devotions. It was comforting and essential to seek God personally and rely on Him alone for our strength. After devotions, we worked on projects like painting the orphanage, sorting clothes, and building benches for the church. Eventually, we came back for lunch and played with kids from the village who would be awaiting our arrival at the guesthouse. We taught them the Macarena dance, and they taught us the Haitian flag dance. Our attempts at this dance were hilarious to all ages and would attract crowds of Haitians who obviously enjoyed a good laugh. After lunch, we headed back down to the orphanage to teach English. The native language is Creole, which is similar to French. We used flashcards to teach the kids and resorted to playing charades when they had mastered all the flashcards. I will never forget the last day we taught English. When we finished, every student in my group shook my hand and said in English, "Thank you so much!" That was the highlight of the trip for me.

After an hour of English class, the Haitians would school us in soccer and other games that they liked. It was so fun to share jokes and games with each other, and the language barrier presented many opportunities for laughter. After we ate dinner each night, we often returned to the orphanage to attend their daily devotionals. Different children would lead the devotionals each night by reading Scripture and singing hymns. We had the opportunity to perform skits for them and to share how God had impacted our lives. It was wonderful to be a part of such an amazing experience and to see how God was working in these children's lives.

We usually ended each day with worship, reflection, and prayer. Aside from ministering to the orphanage kids, we also hiked cross-country or rode in the pickups to schools where we performed the same skits, taught the students a song, and shared our testimonies. We shared a song and our testimonies at a local church each Sunday as well. Our guesthouse was built adjacent to the church building, and on two different weekday mornings we were awakened at 4:45 a.m. to Haitians worshipping only twenty feet away. It is inspiring to hear believers boldly and loudly praising Jesus early in the morning.

There are so many more stories that define my experience in Haiti, but the biggest impact and greatest lesson I learned in Haiti was that God provides. The language barrier, sleep deprivation, car trouble, and other problems were always countered by God's provision. He answers prayer, and apart from Him we could have done nothing. I am so thankful for everything He has done and I know this experience in Haiti will affect me for the rest of my life.

## Joel Smith, Class of 2010

Joel Smith has finished just three of the five years necessary to complete his degree in biomedical engineering at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He is already seeking solutions to such real world problems as improving the wheels on IV stands used in hospitals and developing a more cost effective treatment for postpartum hemorrhage. As a biomedical engineering student, Joel is always asking the question, "What problem can I solve to make life better?"

As a freshman, Joel joined the Biomedical Engineering Society and became a member of their design team for the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance. This design team was sponsored by PATH, a Seattle-based nonprofit, looking for a new, low cost treatment for postpartum hemorrhage which could be used in developing countries. His team submitted several ideas, one of which is currently under development by a start-up company, InPress Technologies, and will hopefully address one of the leading causes of maternal death in the developing world.

Joel's work on IV stands was actually a class project during his sophomore year. He and his classmates were required to address a non-prosthetic mechanical problem, and after speaking with nurses in a local hospital, decided to attack an issue that could make an impact closer to home. The current wheel system on IV stands is prone to locking up and tipping over, and has difficulty navigating small bumps, like thresholds. Joel and his fellow students developed and tested several prototypes of their IV stand design. Joel enjoys the challenge of design and last spring spent some of his free time working on a way to enable people in wheelchairs to use escalators.

In addition to pursuing the field of biomedical engineering, Joel is also a member of Army ROTC at Cal Poly and upon graduation will be commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He plans to work as an engineer for the Army and then hopes to return to private industry after he completes his military service. He says, "I would love to work for a company like PATH that focuses on low cost effective medical products and treatments for the third world."

Joel says that the faculty at Bear Creek taught him that opportunities are not simply handed to you, but must be sought out. He was shaped by a Bear Creek faculty that "wanted me to succeed and encouraged me to truly unlock my potential." Bear Creek teachers like Mrs. Graham, Mrs. Kaplowitz, and Mr. Davison are an inspiration to him as he seeks out meaningful experiences and challenges in college and endeavors to stay on the path that God has put before him.



Michelle Bates, with whom he hopes to start a family, settle down on a farm in the Scottish countryside, and labor through the rugged road of completing a dissertation in Biblical hermeneutics and literary tradition.



### Josh Smith

Last fall Josh decided to take a quarter off from the University of Washington and traveled through Europe for three months. He bought a round trip plane ticket and reserved his first night in a hostel but didn't have any additional plans going into the journey. During those three months, he traveled with many people he met along the way, visited 22 different European countries, stayed with a family in a village of 300 in the remote north of Sweden, went skydiving above the Danube River in Hungary, and explored underground caverns, among other experiences.

In January, Josh returned to the University of Washington to complete his atmospheric sciences degree, and graduated in June. Josh currently works as a meteorologist for the National Weather Service at a forecast office in Pendleton, OR. His office provides weather forecasts for a large area which includes much of Washington and Oregon east of the Cascades. Next summer he hopes to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and is excited to see what other adventures life has in store for him.



### Chris Strandin

After two years at the University of Washington, Chris transferred to Gonzaga to pursue a degree in business. His next step after graduation will be to find a sales job in the Seattle area and begin his career.

### Brett and Jessica (Joyner) Webber

Congratulations to Brett and Jessica who were married on June 16 in Bellevue. Blessings to the couple! Jessica has joined the Bear Creek staff as a classroom assistant at both campuses, provides library support, and is also helping coach Bear Creek's Middle School girls soccer team.



### Class of 2009

#### Rebekah Hamilton

Rebekah traveled to Lucca, Italy for a month last summer to participate in an Italian vocal program. She will graduate in 2013 with a bachelor's in music education and a master's in teaching.

#### Will McCahill

Will is currently a triple major at Gonzaga University in accounting, management information systems, and finance. He plans to graduate in May 2013 and sit for his CPA exam. He worked as an accounting intern in Paccar's IT division this past summer.

#### Eli Sanger

Eli is currently rotating between an extended internship in Lexington, KY at a coal chemical supply company

called AKJ Industries and going to school at the University of Pittsburgh. He is working towards getting his B.S. in mechanical engineering, with a minor in European history (he has Mr. Joyner and Mr. Sorensen to thank for that), and while on campus he will give tours of the engineering department to prospective students.

#### Brittanie Vander Weide

Brittanie graduated from the University of Washington one year early with a bachelor's in psychology and is currently attending Gonzaga University's master's program in marriage and family therapy. She is also recently engaged to Will McCahill '09. They are planning their wedding for the summer of 2013.



#### Katie Wolfram

Katie attended the University of Otago, NZ last semester and returned home to begin an internship at Microsoft where she worked in the finance department for seven weeks. Now she is back at St. Olaf for her last volleyball season. She plans to graduate this spring and return to Seattle afterwards.

### Class of 2010

#### Katelyn Culbert-O'Leary

Katelyn is attending Bellevue College, earning her associates degree in arts and science. She then plans to transfer to UW Tacoma to finish her undergraduate degree. She is working as a toddler teacher and loving the benefits of being with kids every day! She is still biking constantly and plans to ride in Tahoe, CA in September.

### Michael Davison

Michael is studying mathematics and political science at Santa Clara University. This fall he will be studying international relations in Geneva, Switzerland. He will serve on Bear Creek's alumni leadership steering committee because, "I loved my high school experience. Bear Creek shaped me into the person I am today and opened up opportunities that I would not have received going someplace else. It is an honor to be able to give back and help other students receive the great experience I had and be able to help this great alumni community stay in touch as we spread across the world."

### Josh Erickson

Josh is currently studying business management information systems and operations and supply chain management at Gonzaga University. He works as an account executive for the school newspaper and completed an internship at Costco in the IT department this summer working with the business analyst group. His group acted as the liaison between the business and IT sides of Costco, offering insight into over fifty projects. He recently co-founded and now acts as the chief operating officer of a small Internet start-up called Easyzag (easyzag.com), which is a software-as-a-service (SaaS) company. Easyzag's mission is to provide a unique environment that simplifies the Gonzaga student's Internet experience by providing easy access to sites most frequented by students for both academic and personal purposes.

### Hank Frantz

Hank is currently pursuing a degree in international relations at the University of San Diego, with Spanish and economics minors. He studied for three weeks in Barcelona, Spain this past January and hopes to go abroad again soon. He is also actively involved with his fraternity, Sigma Phi Epsilon.

### Robert Kelley

Robert was recently selected to serve as assistant controller with Biola University's Student Missionary Union,

the largest student-run missionary organization in the world. Over the next two years, he will have the opportunity to help plan the budget for about thirty different short-term mission trips run entirely by students, as well as help to run the organization overall. He is excited to get to use his gifts to help serve God's kingdom!

**Angela Martucci**

Angela is a junior at Gonzaga University. She is majoring in public relations and minoring in advertising. She enjoyed a wonderful summer in both Spokane for the summer session and at home with her family. Through Gonzaga, she was able to intern with Sherwin Williams in Redmond for the second half of the summer. She has had a fantastic time working and learning many aspects of the business. This fall Angela traveled half-way around the world to Florence, Italy to study at Gonzaga's campus there. She is very excited for this year and all the experiences her travels and time in school will bring. She loves her college experience at Gonzaga University—it is the perfect fit!



**Collette Sackman**

Collette finished her sophomore year at Grove City College in Grove City, PA pursuing a degree in psychology with a minor in chemistry. In addition to regular classes, she is involved in a number of extracurricular activities such as dance shows, musical theater productions, one-act plays, and her college touring choir. On campus she is involved in Orientation Board, a service group of students who help to welcome the incoming freshmen/transfers/commuters by planning and running fun icebreaker events, mentor

groups, Bible studies, and other outreach opportunities. This past summer she also had the privilege of serving as a kitchen assistant at Sambica, a Christian camp on Lake Sammamish. She greatly enjoyed the camp experience as it stretched her in many ways, and she will be returning next summer as a counselor.



**Georgina Wadhvani-Napp**

Georgina is currently studying public relations and psychology at Western Washington University, reporting for the student newspaper, the *Western Front*, and volunteering her time managing the public relations of the local non-profit organization Whatcom Taking Action for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs.

**Class of 2011**

**Joanna Benson**

Joanna is a double major in psychology and nursing at Wheaton College, IL, a school known for its Christian education, cold weather, and #1 ranking for best college food in the nation.

**Nichole Crews**

Nichole recently changed her major to biology and is still in a relationship with Gannon McCahill '11. She is looking forward to her new position as community leader (resident's assistant) for the Ruth Collins Residence Hall at Baylor University this fall. Nichole reports that her sister Julianna continues to be extremely happy with her Lower School experience at The Bear Creek School.

**Gannon McCahill**

Gannon is a sophomore majoring in finance, professional sales, and real estate

at Baylor University in Waco, TX. He is a member of the Theta Nu chapter of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity and interned this summer at College Works Painting in Seattle.

**Abby Gomulkiewicz**

Abby is pursuing a B.A. in history through a joint degree program at The College of William and Mary and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. By showing an expertise in colonial American history, she received a certificate from The Institute of American History and Democracy. Abby is very active on campus. She interned in Colonial Williamsburg in a milliners shop, is an executive board member of the Russian Club, a peer reviewer for the "James Blair Historical Review Journal," a T.A. for incoming freshmen, and a sister in Phi Mu Sorority. She accepted the position on Bear Creek's alumni leadership steering committee because, "I really believe in the mission of The Bear Creek School. I want to give back to Bear Creek because the people have done so much to make me into the person I am today, so I want to help alumni connect with the school and be helpful to current students."

**Deborah Pereira**

Deborah is planning to attend medical school after receiving her bachelor's in microbiology. This summer she worked at a chiropractic office in Bellevue.

**Catherine Pomeroy**

Catherine is thrilled to be in her sophomore year of nursing school at the University of Tennessee, discovering and exploring the incredible design of the human body and how to best take care of it. She gets to work with cadavers this year in her anatomy class—an amazing opportunity and experience! She is thankful to be in the medical/healthcare field, learning that there is nothing she would rather do with her life than strive to make an impact on those who are incapable of helping themselves.

**Jenny Price**

During her gap year, Jenny spent 3½

months in New Zealand with her sister, Katie '07, working on a dairy farm and backpacking around the country. After a couple months at home, she headed off again to Annecy, France where she worked as an au pair for a French family. She enjoyed discovering a different culture and improving her French speaking skills. This fall she is enrolled at Middlebury College in Vermont.

**Tim Ricard**

Tim finished his freshman year of chemistry at New Mexico Tech. He enjoyed a year of making new friends, finding spiritual fellowship with the local chapter of Intervarsity, and learning more about the Lord's creation.

**Adelaide Tillinghast**

Adelaide is starting her sophomore year at American University. She joined the American University cycling team last fall and successfully completed her first season of racing in the Atlantic Collegiate Cycling Conference this spring. After traveling a few thousand miles to races along the east coast and getting to know her teammates, she is very excited to help lead the team as president. Adelaide is currently working as a sales associate at Revolution Cycles in Georgetown where she enjoys learning even more about cycling.



**Marc Mueller, Class of 2008**



Marc recently returned from an eight-week summer mission trip in Ecuador. He joined a team of five which was sponsored by the World Deputation Program of University Presbyterian Church. The team partnered with an organization called Liebezell to provide outreach, education, practical support, and humanitarian aid. Team members linked with Liebezell provide outreach worldwide, share a common dedication and motivation for service to their mission: "We are convinced that the Good News of Jesus Christ is a beneficial and life-changing force for every person, every culture and nation. Our task is to live and pass on this truth." To date, over 1,000 students have participated in the World Deputation Program, serving in over 40 foreign countries and 20 states in the U.S.

The majority of Marc's time was spent in the town of Cotacachi, Ecuador, which is two hours north of the capital of Quito. The purpose of his team's mission was to provide volunteer support, relationship building, and teaching to various Ecuadorian families. Much of Marc's service centered around construction and painting, teaching English to kids, and partnering with a youth camp; but according to Marc, the most memorable and meaningful part of the experience was building relationships with the people. "There were times when the work aspect did not seem super significant, because some if it was so very ordinary and simple; however, the relationship aspect with the people made it all worth it. I realized that part of serving, no matter what you do, is building a relationship with someone and entering into his life. It is ultimately about people and not about some finished product. Sometimes the very best (and the most important) thing we can offer is to just be present and engaged; and with that, you enter into people's lives."

In addition, Marc loved seeing the beautiful country and experiencing the essence of the Ecuadorian culture. At the conclusion of the trip, Marc was able to travel to the Amazon jungle, climb in the Andes up to 16,000 feet, see the coast of Ecuador, and explore the capital of Quito. "I really loved seeing Ecuador because it is a beautiful country and there is so much to do. The culture and the people are great. Looking back, I will miss the people in Ecuador—their friendliness, hospitality, smiles, and laughter—and I will miss the fun times we had together. I now have friends in Ecuador that I would love to go back and visit someday."

## Spring Sports Teams Benefit from Alumni Spirit

### Golf

“In preparing for the spring golf season, it came to my attention that **Bobby Morgan '05** might be interested in providing coaching assistance to the team,” said golf coach Greg Cheever. “I eagerly contacted Bobby. I knew that his character, temperament, and can-do attitude would be an excellent fit for the Bear Creek golf program and coaching staff. Without hesitation, Bobby jumped right in. He connected with each Bear Creek golf team member and proved daily to be a valuable asset to the program.”



### Girls Tennis

“We are so blessed and grateful that an alumna with Katie’s talent volunteered for the spring tennis season,” said Susie Imam, girls varsity tennis coach. **Katie Price '07** took third in State during her senior year at Bear Creek and is currently a very impressive 4.5 USTA player. Katie contacted Coach Imam early last spring and asked if she could help with the girls varsity tennis team. Katie supported the coaches by focusing on groundstroke fundamentals, conditioning, and match strategy with the girls. Katie’s service as a coaching assistant during the February to May tennis season had a great impact on the skill level and camaraderie of the girls tennis team.



### Track & Field

“Two years ago Brittanie approached me about learning to coach track. I was thrilled to have a former athlete come back, ready to serve and learn coaching fundamentals,” said track coach Scott Wright. Wright immediately offered **Brittanie Vander Weide '09** the position of assistant sprint coach. “Brittanie jumped right in and was such a help to the team and to me. She was familiar with all the drills, workouts, and also with some of the athletes on the team. She has been a big part of the team and of my coaching staff for the past two years. She was my go-to person whenever things needed to be done. She will be a great coach, and I will miss her next year as she continues with her studies in Spokane.”



## Reunion 2012

Reunion 2012, chaired by Jeanine Gorzalski '10 and Alex Higinbotham '07, was held June 23-25 at Bear Creek’s campus on Union Hill in Redmond. On Saturday morning, alumni participated in a professional networking event with a distinguished panel of industry leaders: Jim DuBois, General Manager at Microsoft Information Technology; Karen Horvath, Professor of Surgery at University of Washington School of Medicine; Preston Feight chief Engineer at Kenworth Truck Company; Steve Kesinger, Vice President at Nordstrom; and Brenda South, Senior Vice President at Weber Shandwick.

Other reunion events included a bar-b-que lunch with faculty, Chapel on Sunday morning, as well as the annual alumni vs. varsity basketball and soccer games. On Monday, alumni enjoyed a day on the links at the Grizzly Open Golf Tournament at Bear Creek Country Club.



# Calendar of Alumni Events

**Green & Gold Night**  
Tuesday, November 20, 2012

**Alumni Bowling Bash - RSVP Required**  
Wednesday, November 21, 2012  
Lucky Strike, Bellevue

**MS & US Choirs Christmas Concert**  
Thursday, December 6, 2012

**MS & US Bands Christmas Concert**  
Tuesday, December 11, 2012

**Homecoming Basketball Games**  
Alumni Mixer and Pregame Dinner  
Friday, January 11, 2013

**US Drama: Shakespeare's Hamlet**  
Thursday, January 17, 2013  
Saturday, January 19, 2013

**Annual Dinner and Auction**  
Saturday, March 23, 2013  
Bellevue Westin

**US Musical: Fiddler on the Roof**  
Thursday, April 18, 2013  
Friday, April 19, 2013  
Saturday, April 20, 2013

**Class of 2013 Commencement**  
Saturday, June 15, 2013  
First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue

**6th Annual Grizzly Open Golf Tournament**  
Monday, June 24, 2013  
Bear Creek Country Club

See [tbc.org/alumni](http://tbc.org/alumni) for the most up-to-date information.

# Parents of Alumni

## Praying Over the Crossroads

Join us as we intentionally pray for our alumni, current students, and the entire Bear Creek community. "Praying Over the Crossroads" is a prayer guide for parents of Bear Creek alumni and current students. This quarterly guide includes Scripture passages, as well as timely prayers for juniors, seniors, and alumni. Also included are prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving for God's sovereign hand over the journeys of those in our school community. "Praying Over the Crossroads" can be found at [www.tbc.org/parents](http://www.tbc.org/parents), then click on the Parents of Alumni tab.

## Celebrating Continued Community

Parents of alumni enjoyed a wonderful time of catching up with one another on September 28 at Brian Carter Cellars in Woodinville. Over 60 parents of alumni attended the event which was hosted by the Parents of Alumni Committee: Clare Mehta, Cherie Miller, Deb Perry, Becky Pohlman, Lindsay Price, and Sally Worman.

Please join us for additional events throughout the year planned for our parents of alumni. Upcoming events are listed on the school website at [www.tbc.org/parents](http://www.tbc.org/parents) and then select the Parents of Alumni tab. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you!



# Building a Legacy – Recent Improvements Around Campus

Many of these capital improvements were funded by the generosity of the Bear Creek community including donors to The Fund for Bear Creek, Auction Fund-a-Need, Parent Teacher Fellowship, and Grizzlies Booster Club.



An improved entry plaza and landscaping welcomes visitors to Owens Field including a brick and iron gated entrance.



A new Fitness Center opened last spring benefiting Bear Creek students, faculty, and staff.



The scoreboard on Owens Field is wireless, with bright, readable lighting. On the field, improved drainage and new seeding enhances the playing surface quality.



The new Valley Campus parking lots are paved and landscaped. Students enjoy recess on the expanded playground while new fencing improves security.

## The Bear Creek School thanks our donors who made gifts to the school in honor or in memory of the following individuals:

Samuel Abbott; Lauren Adkins; Elizabeth Atwood; Sara & Sophia Blattenbauer; Katelyn & Jonathan Britney; Michele Brown; Alyssa Buchanan; Grace, Joseph, Jack & Eleanor Carruth; Jake Casale; Kevin, Ryan, & Jack Chappelle; Halle Coleman; Matthew & Jonathan Davidson; Emily Fallon; Rex Freed; Rylan Gauthier; Avery Hallum; Parker Hayne; Abigail Helm; Alec & Evelyn Helzer; Miya & George Higashiyama; Clay Holtzinger; Thomas & Kendal Huberty; Gwen & Laurel Jones; Karsten Kohout; Michael Komola; Alex Levasseur; Zoe & Price Ludwig; Sterling Miller; Ryder Odem; Adela Oja; Katrina Grace Reitan; Paige Satterlee; Hannah Schwartz; Jack & Lexi Shewchuk; Titus Urban; Alyssa & Tommy Varghese; Gabriel & Carolina Villafior; Alex Weaver; Jameson Weed; Michael & Adam Worley; Jayce & Shay Zimmerman.



The new synthetic hardwood floor installed in the Commons/Cornerstone Theater improves both performing arts and athletics experience, in addition to meeting the daily demands of lunch, Chapel, and practices.

Back cover: Players and spectators alike love the new paint and resurfaced floor in the Bear Creek gym.



8905 208th Avenue NE  
Redmond, WA 98053

[www.tbcs.org](http://www.tbcs.org)



Join us for  
**GREEN & GOLD NIGHT**

**Tuesday, November 20**  
**3:30 PM to 8:00 PM**