

The Peak to Peak Alumni Magazine

Piqued

/ˈpēkt/ (verb) to excite interest or curiosity, to arouse an emotion or provoke to action



ONWARD

Volume 2: Issue 2
April 2019

With spring in the air, the halls fill with a sense of renewal. Foundations established earlier in the school year have now become launching pads for materialized opportunities. As we seek to continuously improve our K-12 program, ideas take shape, concepts become reality, and we rise to the challenge. Onward!

In this issue:

- “Listening Campaign” Results
- Alumni Spotlight: Marco Martinez
- An Innovation Summit



Message from Ms. Reeser

Executive Director of Education



Dear Peak to Peak Alumni,

Exciting things are happening at Peak to Peak! One of the biggest initiatives this school year has been our "Listening Campaign," during which we gathered input from all of our stakeholders, including you as alumni, about Peak to Peak's greatest opportunities and most pressing needs for the future. The feedback we received was incredibly helpful and thought-provoking, and generally fell into three different categories, all of which align nicely with our [Strategic Plan](#): (1) Creating New Programs; (2) Renovating existing spaces; and (3) Building New Construction.

We are now actively planning for, and carrying out, the recommended actions from the Listening Campaign, which include envisioning new partnerships with businesses for internships, workshops and speaking engagements, and creating new curriculum that allows for real-world applications and life skills such as advanced technology, community-based government projects, engineering, finances, including budgeting and taxes, and more.

We are also engaged with an architect to conduct a campus-wide analysis of our current spaces and to provide ideas, recommendations and estimated costs for various renovation and new construction projects that were identified as desirable in the Listening Campaign feedback. This is our first step, and our short-term and long-term planning will become more concrete as we use the information we receive to inform future actions and decisions. Please look for updates about this exciting work in future editions of the Piqued Magazine.

Thank you for reading this edition of the Alumni Magazine. More news and updates are available on our website: www.peaktopeak.org. We look forward to helping you stay connected with Peak to Peak.

Best wishes,

Kelly Reeser
Executive Director of Education



2019 Innovation Summit

Peak to Peak Charter School recently completed a new strategic plan that includes dynamic and aspirational goals to help prepare our students for 21st-century educational pursuits and careers. With this strategic plan, we are asking ourselves what essential skills, competencies, courses and training our students need to successfully access their best fit colleges and prepare them for careers in their desired fields, some of which may not yet be in existence.

As one way of addressing the critical questions posed above, we hosted our first Innovation Summit at Peak to Peak on February 13th. In addition to members of our own community, we invited experts from our local area, including business leaders and entrepreneurs, government

officials, and representatives from other K-12 schools as well as colleges and universities, to join in this conversation. The goal of the Innovation Summit was to identify possible collaborative partnerships for our school that could lead to forward-thinking opportunities for our students.

This event was a first-of-its-kind for Peak to Peak and based on the feedback we have received, it was incredibly successful. One of the greatest take-aways was to embrace failure as a learning opportunity, rather than avoiding it or trying to prevent it. Along with this is the importance of creating an environment in which it is safe to take risks. The group encouraged



Above: Student participation was paramount to the success of the Innovation Summit.

us to continue to develop a problem-solving mindset and culture at the school. To accomplish this, stakeholders identified that Peak to Peak should take an integrated approach to learning challenges through creative, relevant, and engaging opportunities and partnerships. Our school leaders will continue to sift through the many exciting ideas, potential partnerships, and creative solutions generated at the Innovation Summit.

We are excited about the connections that were made and the foundation that was laid for future conversations. The event was energetic and stimulating and participants reported high levels of engagement. It was a great example of Peak to Peak building culture and community amongst diverse stakeholders.

Below: A group of students, staff, and community members discusses strategies to develop leadership skills through innovative opportunities.



Puma Athletic Updates

Girls High School Tennis 2018 State Champion



The Girls High School Tennis Team also received recognition at the USTA Colorado Annual Hall of Fame Gala.

Vince Cornella Repeats as 5A State Wrestling Champion, 2018 and 2019



Photo Credit: Cliff Grassmick, Staff Photographer for the Boulder Daily Camera, February 23, 2019; www.bocopreps.com

Vince attends Peak to Peak, but wrestles for Monarch High School.

Upcoming Events:

- **Apr 22nd, 7:00-8:00pm:** 2019 Community Discussion
- **Apr 29th, 6:00-8:00pm:** Orchestra Concert
- **Apr 30th, 6:00-8:00pm:** Band Concert
- **Apr 30th, 5:30-7:30pm:** Choir Concert
- **May 1st, 6:30-8:30pm:** Annual Meeting
- **May 2nd-4th:** High School Musical - Little Shop of Horrors
- **May 3rd, 8:00am-3:00pm:** Run for the Peak
- **May 6th, 4:00-6:00pm:** K-12 Art Show
- **May 18th, 9:00-11:00am:** Senior Graduation

[Click to see Peak to Peak's K-12 Events Calendar](#)



Alumni Spotlight: Marco Martinez *Class of 2011*

Where are you now and what are you up to?

I am working as a Creative Freelancer and Audio/Software Engineer around Denver and Fort Collins, Colorado. I own a small LLC and work on a wide range of projects from Traffic

Engineering to Artistic Design. I work with a bunch of small companies and have participated in a few Kickstarter campaigns. It's a bit hectic but I have a ton of fun.

Do you think your time at Peak to Peak helped you pursue this? If yes, how?

Peak to Peak's academic rigor helped prepare me for an undergrad in Mechanical Engineering, and it was in this program that I found my true passion for Music and Audio Engineering.

Did you ever imagine doing this while you were at Peak to Peak?

No, not at all. I thought I wanted to design flashy sports cars when I finished high school. It took me several years to find what I truly wanted to do. To be honest, I am still figuring that out in some ways.

What education have you pursued since high school?

Last year, I completed an MS degree at CSU. For my thesis, I developed software for non-invasive tactile hearing aids. It was a very rewarding experience.

Who was your favorite teacher and why?

Mr. Hankla was my favorite teacher. He opened my mind to the awesome subjects of physics and engineering and helped me realize my potential in this area. Without him, I would never have pursued a degree in Engineering.

Are you still friends with anybody you met at Peak to Peak?

Yeah, a handful of us have a Discord group and regularly play video games online together. We all live in different cities, so this has been a great way to keep in touch.

What's the most influential class you've taken in college?

Definitely Mechatronics. This is an undergraduate design course where 3rd year Mechanical Engineering students are tasked with designing and building a complex electro-mechanical system. My design ended up winning Design News Magazine's "Gadget Freak of The Year" award in 2015, with a \$6,000 prize and a free trip to California. This caught the attention of a few researchers at CSU, and they asked me to join their team to help develop a new kind of hearing aid. This is what led me into my graduate degree. I may never have realized my passion for Audio Engineering had I not taken this course.

What would you like to tell your fellow alumni?

Don't be afraid to take a non-traditional career path, pursue your passion and be your own boss. Technology and social media have made it super easy to work independently.

Faculty Spotlight: John Steinbauer



How long have you worked at Peak to Peak, and what classes have you taught?

I've been at Peak to Peak since the fall of 2008 - almost 11 years. In my first 3 years, I taught American History to our seventh graders. In my fourth year, we changed the Social Studies course pathways, and I decided to keep teaching seventh grade and take on the new content at the grade level, so I've been teaching World History 1 (Human origins to the Middle Ages) since then. I also designed and advised an eighth-grade elective called "Independent Seminar" for its first year in 2014-15.

How is the school (and/or students) different from when you first worked here?

In my time here, Peak to Peak moved from its first decade into a more "mature" phase in its life as an institution, and in many ways it feels less intense than it did a decade ago. At the same time, we are moving into a new period of redefining ourselves. The last year or so has been a time of experimentation and change. I've always liked how much freedom I have to shape my classroom environment and learning experiences and that is as true as ever.

What's the secret to a successful class?

To me, the most important things are to take a moment to connect with my students, to take advantage of any opportunity to laugh together, and to focus on teaching them skills they will be able to use later in life. Not many people remember the content knowledge they learned in seventh grade.

Tell us about your recent successes/adventures?

For years, I thought of ancient world history as really far removed from our daily lives in the 21st century, and that perspective made it hard to connect my content to my students' lives. But more recently, I've started to see that the changes we are living through, as revolutionary as they are, are the same themes we study in my history class. So, I've been working really hard this year to help students see those connections and to create a classroom structure that allows them to learn about current events and their own curiosities, and to connect that to the past.

Outside of school, my latest adventures have mostly been about raising a family. My kids are currently 6 and 3. The last couple of years have been amazing as they've gotten old enough for my wife and me to introduce them to our old passions of skiing, camping, and climbing. We've had some great times in the last year exploring slot canyons in Utah, watching a cattle drive move through our campsite in Wyoming, and skiing the trees together.

Finally, this year my son, Charlie, started Kindergarten here at Peak to Peak. Being a parent of a Puma has been a different kind of adventure for sure!

What message would you like to leave for our Alumni?

Life doesn't always go in the direction you planned, but that's okay because there are so many unexpected opportunities waiting out there. Cherish your relationships.

What section of the bookstore would we find you in and why?

New nonfiction releases. I love reading about world and U.S. history and current events and science.

Below: We love when our alumni stop by campus to check out what is going on with our current students. This group of alumni basketball players stopped by to get a run in at a varsity open gym over the winter holiday break. Left to right: Daniel Griffith (Class of 2016), Tommy Shriver (Class of 2017), Niko DeNiro (Class of 2018), Max Smith (Class of 2017), Nate Fangman (Class of 2018), Seth Bussinger (Class of 2015), Mitchell Ward (Class of 2015), Phillip Ward (Class of 2014), John Howard (Class of 2014), Taylor Jackson (Class of 2014), Coz Braswell (Class of 2014), and Nick Kelly (Class of 2014)



Top of page: An early morning winter sunrise over the campus quad was a treat for those present.

Far right: Seventh-grade students at the "Courage Retreat" celebrate with the high school PAC leaders.

Right: A rare hot air balloon close encounter during the winter holiday. The balloon came down into the quad then was towed out to the soccer field to complete the landing.





The Peak Innovation Fund

Now kicking off its 3rd year, the Peak Innovation Fund is in full swing implementing creative innovative projects on campus. This flexible account provides immediate funds to new innovative project proposals submitted by any K-12 staff member. These projects may not otherwise be possible through the school's traditional budgeting process. Over thirty projects have been funded thus far, and more and more creative ideas are being discussed on a regular basis. All community members are invited to financially support his unique fund through our online donation site. We invite you to view [this video](#) highlighting a few of this year's winning projects. Below is a list of the creative projects already made possible by the previous two years of funding.



2018-2019

Ms. Andony: This Land Is Your Land / Ukulele Project Ukuleles and related equipment

Ms. Amidon & Ms. Letter: Designing a Better World - The Conrad Global Challenge Materials

Mr. Schaefer: The Peak to Peak Science Immersion Project: Experience The Microscopic World Through Virtual Reality *(pictured)*

Ms. Medina: Lang & Comp Writers Workshop with Thriller Novelist Honorarium for author-speaker

Ms. Harlow: Playaway Backpacks - Expanded Access 85 Playaway backpacks

Ms. Eckstein: Infusing Design Thinking and STEM in Elementary and Middle School

Ms. Flanhofer: Kindergarten/Senior Storybook Development Celebrating Growth and Collaboration

Ms. Hankey: Story catchers digital recorders

2017-2018

Ms. Amidon: Shakespeare Bardbots

Ms. Bertarelli & Ms. Szott: Peak to Peak Literary Arts Magazine Production and Publication

Ms. Eckstein & Ms. Oliva: 360 Degree Tour - Using Immersive Technology to Enhance Student Learning

Ms. Firman & Ms. Leach: Spanish for Heritage Speakers course support

Ms. Hankey: Pumas in Action - Service Learning Project

Ms. Letter & Ms. Amidon: Innovation Design Class Students Real World Opportunity for Innovation: Grant for Competitions

Ms. Medina: Colorado Inspires Writers Project

Mr. Nelson & Mr. Knox: 10 Arduino kits

Ms. Peterson, Ms. Quinlan, Ms. Monarski, Ms. Firman, Ms. Leach, Ms. Botvinick, & Ms. Hensen: Innovative and Authentic Approaches to Discipline K-12: Restorative Justice (RJ)

Ms. Tarbutton, Ms. Struck, Ms. Salem, & Mr. Howard: "Mathematical Mindsets" and Inquiry-Based Learning in the Math Classroom

Ms. VanTol: Movement in a wired classrooms

Ms. Mathes: Body, Mind + Voice: Enhancing Children's Experience for Ascent to Creative Heights

Ms. Eckstein, Ms. Oliva, & Ms. Kelly: Virtual Reality headsets and devices

Ms. Moran, Ms. Prieto, & Ms. Hogan: Kindergarten Osmosis

Ms. Hensen, Ms. Green, & Mr. Moore: 4th Grade Literacy Enhancements

Mr. Benson: Revision Assistant

Ms. Flanhofer: VR additions for AP Psychology

Ms. Letter: Empathy Collaboration

Ms. Kelly: Leveled Up Learning

Ms. Sessions: Anatomy In Clay Classroom System *(pictured)*

The **2019 Peak Gala** was a huge success! Current Peak to Peak families, alumni families, and the extended community joined for an evening of celebration while raising over \$150,000 for our students and teachers. Stay tuned for information on next year's Peak Gala celebrating our 20th anniversary. We'd love to see all of you there!

Interested in assisting with 2020 Peak Gala planning? We'd love representation of puma alumni! Please contact us at p2p.friends@bvsd.org



Do you or someone you know shop at King Soopers? Do you use a loyalty card or your phone number to save money at the checkout? If so, we invite you to support Peak to Peak by simply [connecting your information through this website](#) that will automatically generate 5% of your purchases to Peak to Peak! It only takes a minute and requires no additional work on your end. The reloadable King Soopers cards previously used that were connected to Peak to Peak are no longer in effect. Thank you for taking the time to do this, and for supporting Peak to Peak through your everyday shopping!

College Planning & Counseling Center

Can you believe Peak to Peak is celebrating our 20th year? What do you remember most about your time as a Puma? **Share your memories and photos** of your academic experiences, athletics, school dances, teachers, clubs, etc. We'll collect them to use this fall in the special edition, 20th anniversary issue of *Piqued!* Please submit your memories on this [form](#). We'd also love to see your [photos!](#)

Spring in the College Planning & Counseling Center is thrilling. Seniors regularly stop by to both share their good news on admission decisions and scholarships and to reevaluate their game plan when they receive a deferral or "redirection" letter*. Juniors attend a weekly College Research Seminar (CRS) course that allows the college counseling team to assist all students and families through the college search process on a personal, individualized level. In the fall, the rising seniors will continue the CRS course with counselors as they prepare for making their college decisions.

This fall will mark the 10th Annual Peak to Peak College Day on Tuesday, October 2. A new feature will be "career talks," where sophomore, junior, and senior students can learn about a specific career path and how the speaker's college experiences got them there. If you are interested in presenting, please contact Macaela Holmes Fuller, Postgraduate Coordinator, at macaela.holmesfuller@bvsd.org.

All freshman, sophomores, and juniors went to visit colleges in Colorado during the first week of February and were excited to

hear from Peak to Peak alumni at the five colleges they visited. We are always looking for alumni to speak to students about their college process and experience; if you would like to share your perspective, please contact Macaela Holmes Fuller, Postgraduate Coordinator, at macaela.holmesfuller@bvsd.org.

The Peak Fund Scholarship will be awarded to the fifth class of Pumas recipients this year! The Peak Fund Scholarship makes possible scholarships for Peak to Peak graduating seniors to aid the recipient in pursuing a four-year degree from an accredited college or university. The purpose of the scholarship is to diminish financial barriers to college and to help recipients close the gap between awarded merit or need-based financial aid and the cost of attendance. Recipients of the Peak Fund Scholarship have attended various colleges and universities across the country including but not limited to: The University of Arizona, Cornish College of the Arts, Metropolitan State University Denver, Western Colorado State University, Lee University, University of Northern Colorado, Grand Canyon University, Pacific Lutheran University, Macalester College, Colorado State University, Baylor University, Juniata College, Colorado State University in Pueblo, Brigham Young University, Front Range Community College, University of Colorado Denver, Ohio University, Santa Clara University, University of Notre Dame, Colorado College, and Claremont McKenna College.

*Formerly known as a rejection letter, we are reshaping the conversation when a college doesn't choose a Puma to join their incoming class to find other options

Contact the Peak to Peak College Planning and Counseling Center at p2p.counseling@bvsd.org.

Alumni Updates

Class of 2006

Breezy Charles
Current City: Seattle, WA
Graduation: BA, International Relations, Cornell College, 2009
Current Job: Senior Marketing Planner at Nordstrom

Class of 2007

Trevor Doner
Current City: Northglenn, CO
Graduations: BA, Environmental Geology, University of Colorado Boulder, 2011; MBA, Operations Management, Regis University, 2018
Current Job: Rocky Mountain Grocery Buyer & Local Forager, Whole Foods Market
Marriage: Judith Olson, 2016

Chris LaPanse

Current City: Longmont, CO
Graduations: BS, Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder, 2012; MS, Aerospace Engineering, University of Colorado Boulder, 2012
Current Job: Blade design engineer, Siemens Wind Power

Class of 2008

Christine Sparks (Anderson)
Current City: Broomfield, CO
Graduations: BS, Biochemistry, Regis University, 2012; MA, Education (Secondary Curriculum and Instruction), Regis University, 2016
Current Job: Chemistry Teacher, Lakewood High School
Marriage: Tyson Sparks, 2016



Class of 2009

Tracy Durland (Wright)
Current City: Dacono, CO
Graduations: BA, Communication, University of Colorado, Boulder; MA, Educational Leadership, St. Mary's University, Minnesota
Current Job: Testing Coordinator, Secondary Safety, and Supervision Support at Peak to Peak
Marriage: Tyler Durland, 2015
Children: Jackson, 2017

Class of 2010

Austin Lewis
Current City: Honolulu, HI

Jasmine Rodenburg

Current City: Boulder, CO
Graduations: BS, Environmental Policy and Government, Minor in Biochemistry, The College of William and Mary, 2014; JD, Law, University of Colorado, Boulder, 2017
Current Job: Assistant County Attorney, Boulder County Attorney's Office

Class of 2011

Eric Benitez
Current City: Philadelphia, PA
Graduation: BBA, Management Information Systems, Villanova University, 2015
Current Job: Application Development Senior Specialist at Cigna

Class of 2013

Jocelyn Aguilar
Current City: Lafayette, CO
Graduation: BS, Sociology and Anthropology, Cornell College, 2018
Current Job: Manager, Banana Republic

Bryn Grunwald

Current City: Boulder, CO
Graduation: BS, mechanical engineering, University of Colorado Boulder, 2018; BA, International Affairs, University of Colorado Boulder, 2018
Current Job: Department of Energy - Mickey Leland Fellow

Monica Mishra

Current City: Stamford, CT
Graduations: AB, Computer Science, Minor in Spanish, Harvard University, 2017; MBA, Harvard Business School, anticipated 2021
Current Job: Technology Associate at Bridgewater Associates LLP

Chase Robbins

Current City: Louisville, CO
Graduation: BS Interior Design, Colorado State University, 2017
Current Job: Interior Architect, IA Interior Architects (Silicon Valley)

Jacob Tracy

Current City: Erie, CO
Education: Studied Automotive Technology, Lincoln Tech, 2014
Current Job: Service Manager, Sill TerHar Motors
Marriage: Currently engaged
Children: Wesley, 2018

Top right: Ms. Layla Cunningham works with a group of second-grade students during their reading rotations.

Bottom left: Two middle school volleyball players gear up for their next game.

Class of 2014

Marissa Dent
Current City: Colorado Springs, CO
Graduation: BS, Spanish for the Professions with a minor in Business and an Entrepreneurship certificate, University of Colorado Boulder, 2018

Savannah Cohn

Graduations: BSM, Finance and Legal Studies, Tulane University, December 2018; Masters of Accounting, Tulane University, December 2018

Benjamin Giles

Graduations: Honors BA; Philosophy, Politics, and the Public; Xavier University, 2018; PhD Candidate, University of Dallas

Taz Mueller

Current City: Broomfield, CO
Graduations: BA in Biology from Smith College, 2018; Enrolled in EEB PhD program at University of Minnesota starting 2018
Current Job: Research Assistant- Bellemare Laboratory, Smith College Dept. of Biology

Right: It is a long-standing tradition to celebrate any new Pumas in our community. These three boys arrived within a few weeks of one another, and the picture was too sweet to keep to ourselves: Palmer (Ms. Erin Manzanaras, elementary PE), Nolan (Ms. Alison Berman, 5th grade) and Leo (Ms. Bethany Morray, 3rd grade).



Glen Nicholls

Current City: Broomfield, CO
Graduation: BS, EE, University of Colorado Colorado Springs, 2018
MSEE in progress
Current Job: Real Time Logic

Rachel Reeser

Current City: Denver, CO
Graduations: BS, Biochemistry, University of Denver, 2017; PhD, Bioengineering, University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus, anticipated 2023

Class of 2015

Cole Anderson
Current City: Broomfield, CO
Graduation: Associates, General Science, Front Range Community College, 2017
Current Job: Retail Sales Associate, Comcast

Orion Pilger

Current City: Lafayette, CO
Graduations: BA, Film Production, Minor, Computer Science, Minor, Biblical Studies, Biola University, 2018
Current Job: DVT Test Intern at Spectra Logic

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Top of page: Fourth-grade students joined the high school Puma Pride Choir for an afternoon class.

Back cover: Halfway murals created by National Art Honor Society students.

Meghan Sharma

Current City: Westminster, CO
Graduations: AB, Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, 2019

Keaton Whitehead

Current City: Broomfield, CO

Class of 2016

Capprin Bass
Current City: Boulder, CO
Current School: BS, Applied Mathematics, Colorado School of Mines

Gabrielle Bell

Current City: Georgetown, TX
Current Job: Kennel technician

Monica Lindley (Free)

Current City: Longmont, CO
Current Job: Group Leader at BAASC, Peak to Peak Charter School
Marriage: Ancil Lindley V, 2017
Children: Ancil VI, 2018

Class of 2017

Duncan Dunninger
Current City: East Lansing, MI

Katharine Carpenter

Current City: Broomfield, CO
Current School: BA International Studies and Spanish, University of Michigan Ann Arbor

Will McCloskey

Current School: BFA, New Media Design, Rochester Institute of Technology

Cambria Pilger

Current School: BA, Spanish/Journalism, Whitworth University
Current Job: Spanish Live Lab Leader/ Overnight Host at Whitworth University

