



PUSCH RIDGE

Christian Academy

Annual Report
2008 - 2009

HOW TO REACH US

Administration 520-797-0107
Attendance 520-219-4274
FAX 520-797-0598
Website www.prca-tucson.org
Development
 judy.davidson@prca-tucson.org
Admissions
 glen.shepherd@prca-tucson.org
Alumni
 alumni@prca-tucson.org

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Pusch Ridge Christian Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, nationality, or race of its students or in the administration of its educational policies, the awarding of financial aid, or any of its other school administered programs.

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy is an educational ministry of Catalina Foothills Church Schools.

PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
9500 North Oracle Road
Tucson, Arizona 85704
520-797-0107
520-797-0598 (fax)
www.prca-tucson.org

Superintendent
 Bob Davis
Principal
 Tony Bylenga
Director of Development
 Judy Davidson
Design
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Pusch Ridge Christian Academy

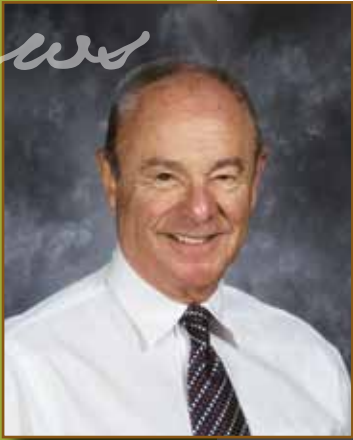
A sixth through twelfth grade college preparatory covenant school that partners with the home.

North Central Accredited • ACSI Accredited

Cover: Photograph by Alex LaMear ('10)

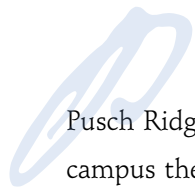
(Lower left going clockwise: Class of 2016 - Jamie Ricksecker, Rachel Romero, Michael Dickinson, Kelly Flynn, Cooper Barghols)

Leadership *Views*



Don Tarquin
Catalina Foothills Church Schools
Chairman, Governing Board

*“What a mighty
calling it is to be a
Christian teacher...”*



Pusch Ridge Christian Academy is a unique community. People tell me when they visit the campus there is something different about this school. The students are smiling, there is a casual feeling of being welcomed, the halls are filled with chatter and laughter, and teachers are walking alongside their students. There is something different about this community, that's for sure.

Unlike the public schools, our students come from many neighborhoods throughout Pima County. Collectively our families worship at over eighty churches. At the end of each full day, our students and faculty disperse across the city. And, while this could cause a separation, here it does not. That's because what these students have in common is the light of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. There is the beauty of diversity joined in unity through Christ, the head of all. “The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12. That is what we are at Pusch Ridge, one body; growing, learning, leaning on one another, lifting up one another, disciplining, loving, encouraging and asking for forgiveness. One body in Christ, with Him as the head.

The seeds of God's truth are being planted in the hearts and minds of our students daily by teachers, coaches and staff who love the Lord. What a mighty calling it is to be a Christian teacher at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. Please join me this Christmas season, and all year long, in praying for our teachers and staff, and thanking them for the tireless ways they show their students the love of Christ.



Leadership Views

Bob Davis, Superintendent

The 2008-2009 school year was one of many changes and new beginnings. Pusch Ridge Christian Academy is now part of Catalina Foothills Church Schools, a kindergarten through 12th grade school system with Cornerstone Christian Academy. It operates under a Governing Board that oversees the educational and co-curricular activities at both school campuses. I do not expect that you will notice any great changes in what occurs at Pusch Ridge, but many of the services that were being duplicated at each school campus will now be performed out of the Pusch Ridge campus (technology, finance and development).

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Interim Superintendent during the past school year. It was a truly wonderful experience for me. I must repeat what I am sure all of you already know. I know of no other school where the faculty cares and loves the students as much as here at Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. The faculty and staff provide wonderful examples of what it is to be a Christian. What an example they are!

The students, families, faculty, staff and supporters will continue to be in my prayers. I know God will continue to bestow His blessing on each and every one of you.

PUSCH RIDGE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY RECEIVES ACCREDITATION IN 2009

In our quest for a quality Christian school, accreditation is an indicator to our faculty, students, parents and supporters, to the broader Tucson community, and to other schools and institutions of higher learning that Pusch Ridge Christian Academy values the education of children enough to pursue excellence in every aspect of its operation. The Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) accreditation requires schools to perform a self-study, evaluating every aspect of its program against national and international standards which represent best practices in the field.

More specifically, the school must document how they are cultivating student growth, both academically and spiritually, while maintaining the highest standards of school operation and faculty excellence. To this end, accreditation requires the school leadership and faculty to examine the impact of the school's biblical vision and mission upon its programs and stated student outcomes, as well as verifying its compliance with accepted educational practices and management.

Last year, Pusch Ridge Christian Academy went through the ACSI accreditation process by completing a self-study, based on active participation and feedback from all staff members and an on-site verification of the self-study by trained peer-evaluators with expertise in education, instruction, administration, and school management. During the summer months, ACSI made the decision to accredit Pusch Ridge upon reviewing our self-study and the visiting team report. The accreditation will now continue for five years by submitting annual reports to ACSI detailing our school's ongoing commitment to continuous program improvement.

ACSI accreditation has the added benefit of reciprocity with the North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASA) which accredits both public and private schools throughout the United States. Our dual accreditation with ACSI and NCA CASA is a mark of quality for Pusch Ridge Christian Academy's commitment to excellence in education and to teaching God's truths.

The NCA CASA accreditation recognizes that Pusch Ridge's processes for school improvement are grounded in the best practices from the education and business fields. NCA CASA Accreditation declares that our framework and support system meets local, state, national and appropriate international requirements, and that our student transcripts are transferrable from school to school. It also offers our students greater accessibility to sports programs, federal loans, scholarships, postsecondary education, and military programs that require regional accreditation.

The Catalina Foothills Church School Board and the Pusch Ridge Christian Academy administration and faculty team are proud to announce the completion of the accreditation process and that the ACSI Regional Accreditation Commission and NCA CASA have granted Pusch Ridge Christian Academy accredited status. Many of you spoke with the visiting team during their time on campus, and we appreciate your comments of confidence to the group.



Celebrating God's goodness,

Tony Koplava

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, Principal



ACCREDITED

The Most Envious Title

“What an amazing prayer” gushed the high school student standing next to me in the huddled mass of humanity. Reverend Rick Warren had just completed his inaugural invocation, and I was gratified that the young men and women, who surrounded me on our national mall, appreciated the awesome historicity and sacredness of the moment they were witnessing. Although we were taking part in a long standing tradition, in which the eighth grade class (and in this case a group of juniors and seniors as well) of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy embarked upon a week long historical and cultural tour, this was beyond anything we could have anticipated or even imagined.

In a few moments, the sensation heightened as students witnessed the swearing in of Barack Obama as our 44th President. No matter one’s political persuasion, there was a definite appreciation that we were present at a very significant moment in the relatively youthful history of our nation.

As I listened to the Inaugural Address, I was struck that despite all of the expectation of great change for the future that hung in the air...among our new President’s very first words was a hearkening back to the example of our forebears and the founding documents they gave us.

I could not resist my thoughts wandering from the present back to our very first president, George Washington. Just one day earlier, our group has been at Mount Vernon. It was my second visit to the home of Washington. As I found to be true of many of the historical sites we toured, much was to be discovered that had been missed in the near

childlike wonder of the first. As I stood at one particular place that overlooks an incredibly grand view of the Potomac River, I couldn’t escape the feeling that Washington himself might have stood at this very point and reflected upon some of the most significant moments in our nation’s history and the great responsibility that he bore through them.



His incredible role in the birth and infancy of our nation have earned him many titles, “Father of our Nation”, “First in the Hearts of His Countrymen”, “the Indispensable Man”. No matter the title, there can be no overstating his significance. It is hard for us to understand today the esteem and respect that Washington engendered in his day. Three specific occasions vividly demonstrate this: his selection as commander in chief of the Continental Army in 1775, his appointment as President of the Constitutional Convention in 1787, and his election as the first President of the United States in 1789. In each instance, the vote was unanimous and no one else was even seriously considered in his stead.

What is perhaps even more amazing is that the esteem was not based on qualities that we commonly link to effective leaders in history or place high value on today. Although a very wise man, Washington was outshone intellectually by many of his contemporaries: Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, to name just a few. As a military leader, he lost more battles than he won. He is never included in rankings of such military geniuses as Alexander, Caesar, and

Napoleon. Yet it was Napoleon himself who lamented on this death bed, "They wanted me to be another Washington."

What made Washington rise above his contemporaries was something that we are also desperately seeking in our leaders today...strength of character. Each of the positions he held offered tremendous power and influence and, therefore, incredible potential for corruption and abuse. In Washington, the others saw a man they could trust to operate within the boundaries he was given and to relinquish power upon the fulfilling of his duties.

Perhaps the greatest example of this can be found in a little known episode in our history that ranks among our nation's most perilous moments. Frustrated by the political chaos and instability that followed the American Revolution, many in Washington's Continental Army staff began to conspire against the Continental Congress and even wrote to Washington urging him to declare himself King. Washington spoke against such intentions in the strongest terms and when all else failed, called a meeting to address the conspirators.

When he came to the end of his prepared speech, the audience had not been moved and his end had not been achieved. At that point, he pulled a letter from his pocket and then also a pair of eye glasses (something only his closest advisors had ever seen). He then spoke, "Gentlemen...you will permit me to put on my spectacles, for I have not only grown gray but almost blind in the service of my country." The hardened soldiers were moved to tears and our fledging nation was spared the chaos followed by tyranny that has been the fate of so many political revolutions throughout the world.

Washington felt the tremendous weight of these responsibilities and in a reflective moment stated, "I hope I shall possess firmness and virtue enough to maintain what I consider the most enviable of all titles, the character of an honest man." It can be safely said that, despite the attempts of many in an era of political correctness and historical revisionism, to impugn his record, he indeed holds the title he valued so highly.

I am grateful that in an era where we find it hard to even comprehend our first President's virtues, much less emulate them, there exists such a place as Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. Here we neither worship, nor idolize our nation's founders including George Washington. We recognize in them the same flaws and potential that are found in all of human nature. Students do learn however to appreciate their faith, wisdom, and character, along with the tremendous foundations they laid. They also learn that we serve a Creator and Redeemer who cares so far much more about our character than our success, no matter how it may be defined.

In a time of great challenge for our nation, our school, and our families, I hope that you will be inspired by the example of George Washington as I have been. I also pray that with God's blessing, we will be faithful in our mission to partner with you in raising a generation that will be servant leaders and truth bearers in every dimension of life. Indeed it is my prayer that all of our young men and women would leave PRCA believing that the most enviable title they could ever attain would be that of "well done thy good and faithful servant".

Jason Clapero
World History, Leadership, HS Lead Teacher

"What made Washington rise above his contemporaries was something that we are also desperately seeking in our leaders today... strength of character."

Donors

The Pusch Ridge Christian Academy community has been blessed immeasurably by the generosity of the following individuals, companies and foundations.

The Annual Report is published once a year. Gifts received from July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009 are recognized in this issue.

We have made every effort to report accurate information. If, however, an error or omission has occurred, please accept our apologies and do not hesitate to contact the Development Office (797-0107 #510).

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Michael and Kristin Vick
Villa Capri Mobile Home Assoc.
Tom and Marisa Wied



Thank you, Mrs. Taylor, for blessing PRCA with a beautiful new Snack Shack! Psalm 28:7 "The Lord is my strength and my shield..."

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

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Charlie and Cindy Cajero
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Andrew and Sherri Courtney

*Finding the right fit
for your charitable giving*

Listed here are ways you can support Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, and help to ensure that our programs continue to grow in excellence.

CASH

Gifts of cash, checks, MasterCard or Visa.

You may make gifts to Pusch Ridge by going to our school website at www.prca-tucson.org. VISA, MasterCard and American Express are accepted on this protected site.

STOCKS

A gift of appreciated stock offers a tax savings. You avoid capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock and you are provided with an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

PROPERTY

Certain restrictions may apply however this can be a great way to give to Pusch Ridge.

PLANNED GIFTS

Avoid capital gain taxes and estate taxes. Removing assets from your estate will not only reduce income taxes and avoid capital gain taxes, but also lower your future estate liability. Planned giving vehicles such as bequests and charitable trusts may provide you with substantial tax savings.

UNITED WAY

You may designate PRCA for your United Way contribution. Simply include: #1403 Pusch Ridge Christian Academy Tucson, AZ on your contribution form.

MATCHING CORPORATE GIFTS

If you are a Raytheon employee, your charitable donations to PRCA will be matched. Contact 1-888-374-6282 or go on line at www.easymatch.com/raytheon. Please note: Raytheon no longer matches contributions to tax credit organizations. Many companies match charitable giving. Please check with your company.

IN-KIND

Gifts of goods and services are appreciated. Before making such a gift, please call the Development Office to ensure that your gift can be put to good use at Pusch Ridge.

ARIZONA STATE TAX CREDIT

The tax credit is \$1,000 if you file jointly, and \$500 if you file individually. This is your opportunity to designate some of the taxes that you pay the state to Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. Every family should be participating. The school office has brochures.

HOW TO GIVE STOCK

For stock held by a broker, instruct your broker to contact either of these companies:

Bart Schannep
Schannep Investment Advisors
520-544-2500
Pusch Ridge's account # 486-38183
DTC #0352

Tom McCausland
RBC Dain Rauscher
520-299-4444
877-566-4029 Toll Free
Pusch Ridge's account # 1101-4000-5628
DTC #0235

To ensure proper gift credit, please alert us to the number of shares and the name of the issuing corporation.

For stock certificates you hold, please contact the Development Office at 520-797-0107 #510.

For more information or assistance in making a gift, contact Judy Davidson at 520-797-0107 #510 (judy.davidson@prca-tucson.org)

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IN-KIND

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Bill, Beth, Alex and Natasha Fedor
- Bill and Margaret Parish

Kaylee Roberts
- Robert Bereiter

Boz and Bonnie Prichard
- Suzann Schlueter

IN MEMORIAM

Max Wilford
- Betty Curtis

CLASS OF 2009 SENIOR GIFT

The Class of 2009 is generously funding a tile mural for the Student Fellowship Plaza Amphitheatre. The mural, being created by local tile artist Susan Gamble, will feature quotes of Shakespeare. Thank you Class of 2009!

TAX CREDIT DONORS

The opportunity to attend Pusch Ridge Christian Academy is a life-changing experience for many students. Thanks to the generosity of hundreds of friends of Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, our students collectively received over \$900,000.00 in tax credit funding during the 2008-2009 school year. Over three hundred students benefitted from the tax credit by having reduced tuition. For many families, the blessing of the tax credit is the only way they can attend Pusch Ridge Christian Academy. Thank you for your support of this program in the past. Please prayerfully consider continuing again in 2009. Please call the Development Office with questions or if you would like a brochure mailed immediately.

Alumni

NEWS

1998

Palo Verde Christian Class of 1998 celebrated their 10th year reunion at PRCA homecoming 2008. Alumni, spouses and children attended the football game, enjoyed dinner together and took a tour of campus. Pictured from (L-R) **Danny Lyons, Kristen Tullgren, Nathan Tullgren, Kelly Kressler** and **Aaron Bustamante**.



2000

Stephanie and **Matt Lewis** welcomed their second son, Jackson Lewis, into the world on October 2, 2009 weighing in at 7 lbs. 15 oz.



2001

Aiden Hicks was born April 7, 2009 and was celebrating his first Easter with parents **Matt Hicks** ('01) and **Vanessa Von Rueden Hicks** ('02).



2002

Kristin Delfs Baker married Zachary Baker on September 27, 2008 at Heritage Highlands, Dove Mountain. Palo Verde Christian and Pusch Ridge Christian alumni attendants included **Kourtney Delfs** ('09), **Karyn Delfs-Gabriel** ('98), **Julie Heathco** ('02) & **Jessica Delfs** ('01). Kristin is working as an Assistant Manager for OfficeMax and Zach is a Sales Manager for Olive Garden.



Jennifer Campbell received her Doctor of Pharmacy in March 2009 from Chicago's Midwestern College of Pharmacy. Jennifer is now working in Colorado Springs in a hospital residency program. Congratulations Jennifer!

2003

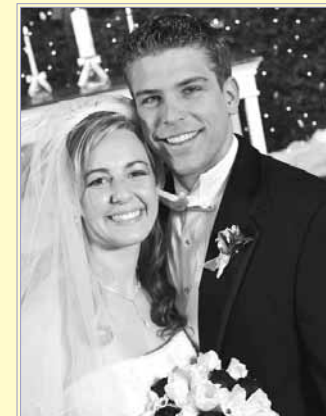
Josie Shepherd graduated from Baylor University with a Masters in Exercise Science Education. She is currently teaching and coaching in suburban Houston.

2004

Aaron Alderink graduated in May 2009 with a degree in civil engineering from the University of Arizona. He is currently working as an engineer at URS in Tucson.

2005

Amanda Worcester married Andrew Quinn on December 27, 2008. Pusch Ridge Class of 2005 alumni in the wedding party included **Reagan Sutton, Jessica Gifford Warner, Elise Yuhas** and **Amy Bergendorf**, in addition to her sisters Jennifer and **Jessica Worcester** ('13), and Ashley Ellingson. Amanda graduated in May from the UA College of Education, Magna Cum Laude.



Jennie Shepherd is a senior in nursing at Oklahoma Baptist. Her junior year she was honored with the "Spirit of Nursing Award". Congratulations Jennie!

2006

Zach Abrams and **Cory Kirk** ('09) catch up at Cadet Chapel at the West Point.



2008

In her junior year at Oklahoma Baptist, **Jamie Shepherd** is studying elementary education. Her plans are to travel with Up with People in the fall of 2010.

Cadet **Charles (Doug) Bowyer** had the privilege of meeting with Senator John Glenn at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Charles recently received his instructor pilot rating for gliders.



CONGRATULATIONS *to the Class of 2009!*

Over \$4.4 million in academic scholarship offers were earned by our 83 graduates in the Class of 2009, and 94% went on to college. The Class of 2009 had 10 students named as Advanced Placement Scholars and 2 National Merit Scholars. Graduates of the Class of 2009 were accepted at the following colleges and universities:

Arizona State University
Azusa Pacific University
Baylor University
Biola University
Calvin College
Coe College
Colorado Christian University
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Concordia University
Dordt College
Gonzaga University
Hawaii Pacific University
Hope College
La Tourneau University
Lee University
Lewis & Clark University
Liberty University
Northern Arizona University
Oral Roberts University
Pima Community College
Point Loma Nazarene University
Purdue University
San Diego Christian College
Texas A & M
The King's College
Trevecca Nazarene University
United States Military Academy at West Point
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
University of Northern Colorado
University of Oklahoma
University of Texas
Valparaiso University
Vanguard University
Westmont College
Wheaton College
Whitworth College

STUDENT COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS *2008-2009*

Serving our community is a core value within the Pusch Ridge community. In grades 6th - 12th our students choose ministries and charities to serve throughout the year. In the high school, students are also required to fulfill community service hours each quarter.

- Angel Tree Ministry
- Ben's Bells
- Gospel Rescue Mission
- Project Amor
- Project Feed Everyone Every Day, Giving Tree Ministries
- Quijotoa Mission
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Tucson Community Food Bank



Stuffing collected for Gospel Rescue Mission.

*Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 11 College Night - 6:30 pm
- 16 Admissions Open House - 9:30 am
- 18 No School - MLK
- 19 Freshman Forum - 6:30 pm
- 22 MS Variety Show - 6:30 pm
- 25 Science Fair - 5:00 pm
- 30 Eight Grade Washington D.C. Trip

FEBRUARY

- 4 Shakespeare Competition - 1:35 pm
- 7 Staff Appreciation Dinner - CFC - 5:00 pm
- 10 Grandparents' Day - 8:30 am
- 13 Admissions Open House - 9:30 am
- 24 Career Fair - 8:30 am
- 25-26 No School - Rodeo

MARCH

- 2 Spring Choir Concert - CFC 7:00 pm
- 5 No School
- 10-12 Sixth Grade Grand Canyon Trip
- 18-20 B.O.W. Performance
- 29-31 Easter Break

APRIL

- 1-2 Easter Break
- 17 Admissions Open House - 9:30 am
- 23 Eighth Grade Etiquette Dinner Dance

MAY

- 2 Senior Blessings - 6:00 pm
- 4 Band and Choir Concerts - CFC - 7:00
- 14 MS Shakespeare Performance
- 20 Senior Girls' Luncheon - 11:30 am
- 22-26 Senior California Trip
- 26 Eighth Grade Promotion - 5:00 pm
- 28 Class of 2010 Graduation - CASAS
7:00 pm

Cheri's Arizona Sunrise Muffins

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- ¼ cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup prickly pear jelly



Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Sift flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together and set aside. Mix oil, egg, and milk and add to dry ingredients. Stir until moistened. Batter will be lumpy. Fill greased muffin tins half full. Place 1 teaspoon of jelly in the exact center of each muffin, with jelly not touching edges. Add remaining batter, covering jelly, so that tins are two-thirds full. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Makes 12 large muffins or 18 smaller ones.

M I S S I O N S T A T E M E N T

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy, a covenantal Christian school, exists to glorify God and to partner with the Christian home in discipling young men and women in their relationship with Christ and the Scriptures, unfolding to them a unified and Biblical world and life view, equipping them with the tools necessary to pursue a lifestyle and love of learning, exposing them to the classical ideas from our Western cultural heritage, and challenging them to pursue academic excellence.

We desire to see our young men and women "increase in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men" in order to live out their faith as servant leaders in every area of society (Luke 2:52).

**Tax credit to Pusch Ridge
tops \$900,000 in 2008
thanks to you!**

**Every dollar was given to
students for financial aid in
the 2008-2009 school year.**

**Thank you for helping
Christian families afford
a Christian education.**

Pusch Ridge Christian Academy
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Tucson, Arizona 85704

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