

Welcome to the 2nd CCS Alumni Newsletter!

We hope you enjoy catching up with your alma mater and former classmates! If you would like to be featured in the next edition, have news to share, suggestions, would like to receive the newsletter electronically or would like to update your mailing address, please send us an email at info@coastalchristianalumni.com. Thank you!

First Annual Alumni Weekend

Coastal Christian is in the early stages of planning its First Annual Alumni Weekend for next January or February 2010. It will be for all alumni, former teachers, students, administration, parents and board members, and will hopefully include a CCS basketball game on Friday, a dinner on Saturday and BBQ on Sunday. We'll keep you posted --- hope to see you there! If you would like to help out, or have some suggestions for us, please email info@coastalchristianalumni.com. Thank you!

Featured Alumni: Janis Racho Portz, '93



My name is Janis (Racho) Portz and I was a "lifer" at CCS. I started in Pre-Kindergarten and never once wanted to change schools, so I graduated from a class of nine in 1993. I have worked for the past 13 years in the Intensive Care Unit at Arroyo Grande Community Hospital as a Monitor Tech and I love my awesome job. I have been married for almost 11 years to Thomas Portz, who is a Detective Sergeant with the Pismo Beach Police Department and we absolutely adore this area and hope that we never have to move away from our families. We have two amazing kids - Ava is five and Sam is four. We chose to send Ava (and eventually Sam) to CCS since we knew that the teachers truly love and care for the students, not to mention give them a top-notch education in both academics and the Bible. Ava loves the school and her friends and I can't wait for Sam to be in Mrs. Bockhahn's class! I have great memories of my time at CCS. Field trips on the old school bus (back when we had one) were always interesting because we never knew if the bus was actually going to make it back. Wanda the bus driver/lunch duty lady was always there for us. I also remember really yummy hot lunches from Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Stinson. Our 8th grade and Senior trips were a blast. There's nothing like a new adventure with your closest friends. High school sports were awesome and unlike a huge public school, we actually got the opportunity to participate and excel. Mostly, I remember our teachers and how they showed Christ's love to us daily. Mrs. Birlew, Mrs. McLennan, Mr. Foote, Miss Faber are just some that come to mind. Mrs. Kolb (my absolute favorite) and Mr. Willems always challenged us to think and not to accept what the world had to tell us. I am forever grateful for their teaching and I know my children will be grateful in the future.

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Alison Sparrow Hinrichs -- Class of 2005



Wow! I can't believe that it has been 4 years since I've graduated from Coastal Christian School--and SOOO much has happened in these past 4 years!

In 2005 I graduated with a class of eight wonderful girls that I still keep in touch with to this day! I attended Life Pacific College in San Dimas, California that next fall to get a Bachelor's Degree in Education. After spending a year at Life Pacific, I realized that God had other plans for my life! I've always loved to travel and do mission's work and it weighed heavily on my heart as I was in school for that whole year. Long story short, God opened the door for me to attend Calvary Chapel Bible College in Vajta, Hungary...yes, ALL the way in a random country called "Hungary". I was drawn to Hungary because they offered a Missions Training Program that only lasted for two semesters. Everybody told me that I was going away to "Bridal College to get my M.R.S. Degree". Haha, I didn't laugh...I was so anti-finding-a-husband there that I made a pact with several of my friends, and even my OWN DAD that I wasn't going to meet anyone or get married to somebody that I met there! OK, SO I HAD NO IDEA!! :) I got married two years later on June 7, 2008 to the most wonderful man alive, Zack Hinrichs, who I met at Bible College in a tiny village called Vajta, Hungary. We now reside in Pensacola, Florida where Zack is from. We both work together at Calvary Chapel Gulf Breeze. Zack is the Jr. High/Skate Pastor-In-Training and I am the Youth Ministry Assistant. As difficult as it is to be across the country from my precious family and friends, God has blessed our lives soo abundantly here in Florida!

I always feel so grateful when I look back at the great 9 1/2 years I spent at CCS (I came half way into 3rd grade with Mrs. Martin as my teacher)! Some of my favorite things that I miss are: playing volleyball with my best friends in the whole wide world and with my Coach (I miss you Mrs. Sano!) Spiritual Emphasis (you can't get that anywhere else!) English Class (kids, some day you'll thank Mrs. Limon :) dissecting random animals and watering fake plants with Mrs. Paulding, Mr. Willems' updates on the world, losing money in my stocks in Mr. Lidbeck's class, and Chapel Days...all I have to say to those who are attending now, is to enjoy every day that you are there because it is a true blessing to be going to a Christian school in the midst of the world today, and it will go by SOOOO fast!! Before you know it you'll be married and living thousands of miles away from a place that you once called "HOME".

CCS Kindergarten Roundup

Do you -- or someone you know -- have a child who is ready for Kindergarten? Mrs. Bockhahn will be hosting a "Kindergarten Roundup" on Thursday, March 19 at 6:30 for prospective students. Come learn about the school's kindergarten program, or call the school at 489-1213.



Quiz answers: 1. 1983, with 22 graduates. 2. 1999, 3. Mr. Willems 4. 2005, 5. Brian Jost, Kristin Bockhahn, David Lidbeck. 6. 1991



CCS Girls Volleyball Team Go to C.I.F. Finals!



For the second year in a row, Coastal Christian's varsity girls volleyball team competed in the CIF Southern Section V-AA Championships and came in 2nd in a league of 52 teams! Congratulations to the Lady Conquerors and their coach Misty Sano. In addition, three of the CCS players were chosen for the All-CIF Southern Section teams: Kaitlyn Henry and Madison Sano (1st Team) and Kaitlynd Carroll (2nd Team). Way to go, Ladies!

Alumni News

Lillian Avery Penafior was born to John and Janine (Griffith) Penafior (Class of '87) in September '08, joining sister Megan, 12. **Mike Towery** (Class of '86) has been redeployed to the Middle East. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he serves his country overseas.

Catching up with Mr. Willems

Tell us about your life now:

Life is wonderfully busy. I still teach full-time at CCS and can't think of anything else I would rather do. This year had been especially enjoyable as I have been allowed to teach almost all Bible classes (7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th), and one math class (pre-calculus). Connie and I now have a 3rd grader, Ethan, as well as our two older kids, Daniel and Amanda. Daniel just graduated with a BA in agriculture and is doing an internship with a veterinarian in Oregon. Amanda is a junior at Fresno Pacific, but is doing a semester abroad in Lithuania right now. I also teach an adult class at my church. Weekends are always filled with work on the ranch.

What are some of your favorite memories of your years at CCS so far?

My favorite memories are of students who have continued to grow in their relationship with Christ over the years. It's a special delight to be teaching children of some of my former students. I still miss teaching in front of the fireplace in the Green House.

What do you most love to hear about or from your students?

I love to hear how CCS experiences have helped people mature in the Lord. It's always a special treat to hear from students; what they're doing now, their children and lives.

What do you see as the best reason for Christian education?

The best reason for Christian education is reflected in something one of my former administrators said: "Iron sharpens iron." The opportunities to grow in Christ are found in no other place to the degree that they are found at CCS. Spiritual heritage and blessing are easy to take for granted, but difficult to replace.

CCS 1st Annual Fall Dinner and Auction a Success!

Thank you to all of the CCS Alumni & Friends who helped the Fall Auction by donating items, giving your time or attending the event! The school raised more than \$38,000 for its student programs! Everyone -- including lots of familiar CCS friends -- enjoyed a lovely dinner by the Anacapa Barbecue Company (served by the CCS Class of 2009!), lively music from the Local Vocals and great auction! Some of the items up for auction included a baseball bat signed by the 1961 Dodgers players and coaches, a one-hour flight for two over the Central Coast, a catered BBQ meal for 25, Hawaiian vacations, Barry Manilow tickets and more! If you missed out, please plan on attending next year's Fall Dinner and Auction, planned for Friday, November 13, 2009!



CCS Easter Sunrise Service

CCS is hoping to host an Easter sunrise service at its Oak Park Campus again this year. Last year's was very special, with music from the CCS choir and a message from Wayne Lidbeck. Please check the CCS website (coastalchristianschool.com) for more information. We would love for you to be there with us as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior!

Get in touch with Your Fellow Conquerors!

facebook

Are you on Facebook? We are too! Please join our group, Coastal Christian School, CA -- Alumni and Friends. We already have 83 members who have shared memories and pictures from their time at CCS, and we would love to have you there too!

How Well Do You Know Your Conqueror History?

Take this quiz and find out! Answers on the other side!

1. What was CCS's largest graduating class?
2. What year did the school first go to Europe as its Senior Trip?
3. Who taught "Outdoor Survival" in the 80's? (The original 'Bear Grylls'!)
4. When did the Conqueror yearbook switch to an all-color format?
5. Name three CCS teachers who were once students.
6. What was CCS's smallest graduating class?





Coastal Christian School

1220 Farroll Avenue
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
Telephone: 805.489.1213
Fax: 805.489.5394

March 6, 2009

Dear CCS Family and Friends,

We are writing to ask for your help as we stand firm in the face of stormy economic times. As we all know, many families have been hit hard financially this year, and the requests for financial aid at CCS have increased dramatically. Without this vital source of assistance, many children will be forced to leave Coastal Christian simply because their families cannot afford the monthly tuition.

Would you consider joining with other members of the Body of Christ to help provide a miracle for families who are currently praying for one? Your gift of any amount will join with the gifts of other CCS supporters and will help a child continue at CCS in the coming year. Whether you can only send in \$10 or you are able to provide a student's full tuition, your gift is needed and very much appreciated.

Please remember that all financial aid donations are tax deductible (our Tax ID is #77-0105246) as long as they are not designated to a specific student. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Pam Kuiken at (805)-489-1213.

Thank you for your prayers and gifts during this difficult economic time. If we all work together, we know God can use CCS to impact our students, and in turn, they will impact the world.

In His Service,

Lance Tullis
CCS Principal

- Yes, I want to help! I have enclosed the following gift to be donated to the CCS Financial Aid Fund: Amount: \$ _____
- I would like to make monthly gifts to the CCS Financial Aid Fund in the amount of \$ _____ per month.
- I or my business/organization would like to sponsor _____ students for the 2009-2010 school year.

May the Lord bless you as you pray for and give to Coastal Christian School!



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March 6, 2009

Dear CCS Alumni,

In our ongoing effort to keep connected to our alumni, CCS would love for you to fill out this survey and mail it to us at 1220 Farroll Avenue, Arroyo Grande, CA., 93420, or email it to us at info@coastalchristianalumni.com. Thank you so much!

Your Name: _____ Maiden Name, (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email address: _____

Years you attended CCS: _____ Graduation Year: _____

Did/Do you attend a Community College? Yes/ No. Which One? _____

Did/Do you attend a four year college or University? Yes/ No Which One? _____

What year will you/did you graduate from college? _____ Degree? _____

What was your Major? _____

Do you feel CCS adequately prepared you for college? Yes / No / NA

Current Job? _____

What church do you attend?: _____

How are you involved in ministry?: _____

If you have children, do they attend a Christian school? Yes / No / Other: _____

How did CCS influence you?: _____

What stands out in your mind (academically, spiritually, physically) as being most helpful and beneficial from your days at CCS? _____

What would like to see the CCS Alumni Association do for its alumni? _____

In His Service,

Kimberly Wickstrom, Class of 1987
CCS Alumni Coordinator