

HUSKY PAW PRINTS

Vol. 19 Issue 4, Nov. 2017

KEY FEATURES OF NCA

NEW AND
IMPROVED
NCA
NEWSLETTER!



Dr. Jason Song
Founder & Principal

I'm absolutely convinced that there is no perfect school out there. Yet, NCA is committed to making continuous improvements to make it a better place of learning. Allow me to elaborate on what makes NCA distinct and special.

First and foremost, NCA is an **authentic Christian school**. I believe that our students need to have biblical values, strong character, and deep spiritual roots to navigate through this world. We facilitate the development of these qualities through discipline, guidance, counseling, and instruction based on biblical principles. Honesty, integrity, servant-like hearts, responsibility, perseverance, empathy, gentleness, kindness, etc., are just some of the core values we desire to develop in our students.

Second, NCA is a **high performing school** where all students can learn valuable academic skills that will open doors in their future. From students performing in the 90th percentile in Terra Nova

Assessments and earning high marks on the PSAT to winning various academic competitions and high school seniors averaging almost 1400 on the SAT, NCA's students are achieving at the top 10-percentile of all schools in the state and nation. Still, NCA is constantly seeking ways to make learning more effective and engaging. There is always room for improvement!

Third, NCA is a **safe school**. Physical safety of each child is our priority, but we don't stop there. We desire to create an environment in which students can be nurtured by teachers and respected by peers. That does NOT mean we simply cater to the students. Rather, we address and solve peer problems or relational issues through mutual respect and fairness. From the Honor Council (student adjudication body), to Lead Mentor (Austin Tannous), to teachers and admins getting involved in various aspects of student lives, NCA is truly a community in which student safety and wellness are promoted and fostered.

Finally, NCA is a place where you'll meet and interact with **fantastic teachers**. Our teachers are caring individuals who greatly impact students. That's not just my words--on every single exit interview since 2003 (when we had our first graduating senior class), graduates of NCA consistently identified teachers as best part about NCA. The teachers and administrators of NCA are highly qualified and effective professionals. We take pride in that, of course. But, beyond that, we are committed to the call to raise up the Christian leaders of tomorrow. We do not take this responsibility lightly. That's why we hire the best teachers. That's why we keep

investing in professional development. That's why we hold our teachers to the highest standards of accountability. This commitment to having the most effective, continually growing, and ever-loving teachers will never be compromised at NCA.

In conclusion, NCA may not be the perfect school, but we are continually making strides to become a better school. Those parents who placed their children at NCA know what I mean by that.

So, are we there yet? No. Then, will we ever get there? We certainly hope so. In the meanwhile, we will make improvements each day to ensure that our students are well-taught, loved and cared for, protected and safeguarded, and surrounded by caring

and effective teachers. That's our commitment to you.

There are some other features of NCA that I'm proud of:

- small class size
- affordability
- effective use of technology
- sense of community/family
- free summer school program
- apologetics events
- growing athletic program, etc.

All in all, NCA is a unique school that is thriving in the heart of Los Angeles. I hope both prospective and current families will view NCA as a valuable partner in educating their children.

ANNUAL PARENT SURVEY

NCA is a member school of Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the largest K-12 Christian school association in the world. ACSI's US school membership is over 3,000, and more than 20,000 international schools are also members of ACSI. (Visit www.acsi.org for more information)

In the past two years, ACSI has partnered with Barna Group to survey hundreds of Christian schools to find out more about what prospective and current families look for in Christian schools. Now, Barna is launching Phase 2 of this study, and NCA can take part in it.

In early 2018, all NCA parents will be asked to participate in a very detailed survey conducted by Barna. After the data collection phase, Barna will provide a careful analysis of NCA's data, and also compare NCA's data with that of the national cohort. This will allow NCA to better meet the needs of NCA community *and* understand NCA's place in the overall Christian school landscape.

Hence, this is an important study which will be conducted in lieu of NCA's annual Parent Survey typically conducted in November of each year. Thank you in advance, parents, for your active participation.

NCA is a place that relies on data to drive instruction and its programs. As such, your input will be very important in the decision making process in terms of where to allocate resources, what areas to improve or further support, and what changes we will choose to make. So, please keep a look out for the email in January, 2018.



FALL OPENHOUSE

NCA's annual Fall Open House will take place on November 2, Thursday, at 7 PM. Typically, all teachers will be on campus to meet prospective families and current families. Also, Dr. Song will lead the prospective family meeting and answer questions. Many current parents will be on campus to also share their experience with those considering NCA. So, all in all, this will be a helpful event for everyone. Please share this event with those who may benefit from placing their child(ren) at NCA. We advise new families to RSVP for this event.



matter what. That's the truth.

So, let's spend some time this month on what we ought to be thankful about. Taking the time to reflect will invariably give us the reason to praise God who is good. Happy Thanksgiving!

THANKSGIVING

The month of November is filled with many events, but the most important one has to be the Thanksgiving Service on November 17th (and the following break which celebrates Thanksgiving Day on November 23rd). NCA typically celebrates by having a schoolwide feast on the last Friday prior to the Thanksgiving Break.



Our gym/chapel will turn into a great banquet hall. There will be fancy tables covered with table clothes, flower arrangements at the

center, candles glowing, and silverware glistening. Music will fill the air. Children in K-3 will put on their traditional Thanksgiving skit. Special songs will be sung. Dr. Song will count and present the canned food collected for donation (last year was had over 1200 cans of food!). Don't forget the traditional Thanksgiving food prepared by the PTA: turkey, cranberry, mash potatoes and gravy, yam, corn, etc. Yummy!

But, beyond the celebration, we all need to count our blessings and give thanks to the Almighty. Rather than dwell only on the "negatives" of our personal life or the world around us, we should think of the "positives" or "good things" in our lives. Yes, we live in a chaotic world that seems to spin out of control. But, in the midst of confusion and suffering, somehow we can discover God's silver lining: He loves and cares for us, no

CALENDAR ITEMS

November

- 2 Fall Open House
- 3 K and Gr. 1 Legoland Trip
- 5-8 WASC Visit
- 10 Veteran's Day (School is closed)
- 17 Thanksgiving Service
- 20-24 Thanksgiving Break
- 20-21 ACSI Annual Professional Forum

December

- 20-22 Final Exams
- 22 Christmas Service
- 25 Christmas Break Begins

SB 179

Are you aware of SB 179? This is the bill which allows individuals to obtain a new birth certificate showing their preferred gender **without** having gone through clinical treatments. Simply put, a person can walk up to a judge or county registrar, and then ask for a new birth certificate with his or her new gender choice: male, female, or nonbinary. Yes, you read that correctly.

Subsequently, the new birth certificate can be used to demand certain "rights" from, say, schools and churches, for use of restrooms and shower access based on the new gender. Now, while the bill states that there will be a separate procedure for those who are under 18, it is unlikely that that procedure will have a different outcome.

Let's think about a scenario. A biologically male student obtains a new birth certificate indicating himself as female. That person can then demand from schools access to female restrooms, showers, and sports teams. Obviously, the same applies to females who identify themselves as males. For nonbinary students, school will need to provide separate bathrooms, or allow them to use teachers' restrooms under specific conditions.

NCA as a Christian school opposes SB 179. This does not mean we do not care for those who struggle with gender issues. However, NCA believes that God created male and female, and they are different chromosomely.

Parents, we ask you to look into this bill. There are lots of websites for and against this measure, so please stay informed and learn about laws or regulations that will affect your child.