



PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

# Falcon Flier

March 2026

## Important Dates in March

Please refer to the Weekly "In the Know" and website calendar for the most current information!

March 3  
4th Grade Instrument Try Out

March 10  
Kindergarten Exploration  
Tri-College Math  
Knowledge Bowl Sub Regions

March 15  
Tuition Reduction Assistance Deadline

March 17  
Knowledge Bowl Regions

March 18  
Skate City Night

March 26  
Preview Day

March 26-28  
Charlotte's Web



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*PCS is feeling blessed!*

**We raised \$507,595.51**

**This includes our \$250,000 match**

*Thank you to the 301 Donors!*



# Kindergarten Exploration

Rooted in Christ! Hands-on Learning.

**March 10 – 5-6 pm**



Call  
218-236-0500  
today to RSVP



## Spotlight on Success: Bridger Weekley – Scholar, Athlete, and Future Leader

**Bridger Weekley** continues to make his mark both on and off the field. A standout senior at Park Christian, Bridger has balanced academic curiosity with athletic excellence in a way that inspires students and community members alike.

In a recent **WDAY** feature, Bridger shared his journey from early childhood science exploration—rock hunting, butterfly catching trips with his brother and grandfather—to the focused research he conducts today. At age 16, a science fair judge encouraged him to interview for an internship with a Twin Cities biotechnology company. Bridger earned the position and has now interned there for two summers, diving into cutting edge work in plant genetics.

One of his key projects involves using bacteria to introduce genes into field mustard plants to study drought resistance. **Senescence**, the natural yellowing and aging of leaves, helps wild plants conserve energy during stressful conditions. But in modern agriculture, premature senescence reduces yields by halting growth whenever

plants sense minor stress. Bridger worked with a gene that produces an enzyme involved in the synthesis of **cytokinins**,

a class of plant hormones known to delay senescence. His research showed that plants modified with this gene **continued developing even under drought**

**stress**, while unmodified plants stopped growing and yellowed. This discovery highlights how the gene could serve as a **valuable agricultural tool**, helping crops maintain productivity during flash droughts and reducing the need for costly irrigation.

Beyond the lab, Bridger's achievements extend to the athletic field. He has earned **two All District football honors**, a testament to his commitment, leadership, and competitive spirit. Coaches and teammates admire his **discipline and character**—qualities that also drive his academic success. As Coach Matt Baasch noted, "He's a two time All District football player, among many other things! I am very proud of Bridger. He's going to do great things."

Whether conducting meaningful research, contributing to science fairs, or making big plays on the football field, Bridger Weekley exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated student athlete. We're excited to see what God has planned for his future.

**Keep an eye on Bridger — this is just the beginning!**



## 100 Days Smarter

There's something extra special about the 100th day of school — and this year, our K–12 students celebrated it in the most joyful way! **#BringTheJoy**

Our **kindergarten students** marked their big milestone with a fantastic counting parade through the halls, led by our fabulous 5th and 6th grade band under the direction of **Mr. Bergantin**. The music echoed, smiles were everywhere, and our youngest students proudly marched as the entire school cheered them on.

As part of her FLEx project, **Miss Faul** invited her seniors to make the day even more meaningful. They created colorful posters to line the parade route, designed special crowns to wear, and made Fire Up posters for each kindergartener. They then partnered with them for a day full of "100" fun! Together they completed sit-ups, jumping jacks, push-ups, painted 100s, stamped 100 designs, hole-punched 100 dots, and so much more. The laughter and encouragement shared between our seniors and kindergarteners was a beautiful sight.

Moments like this are a sweet reminder of what makes our school community so special. We love watching our **BIGS and littles** learn, lead, celebrate, and serve side by side. One hundred days in, and our hearts are full!



## FIRST® LEGO® League UNEARTHED Season Recap

This season we had **24 participants** in our FIRST LEGO League program. Students worked on the theme UNEARTHED where they explored “how to uncover the past to build a better future, focusing on historical artifacts, forgotten stories, and the technology archaeologists use today, challenging them to identify problems faced by archaeologists and develop innovative solutions using STEM skills.”

There are two main parts to the FLL program, the Robot Game and the Innovation Project. Teams also are asked to share a presentation explaining their strategy/design process for the robot game and exemplify FIRST’s Core Values. We participated in a regional tournament at NDSU in January where teams were judged in all four categories.

For the Innovation Project, each of the three teams had to come up with a problem involving archeology, research possible solutions, design an innovative way to solve the problem, and then



present their process to a team of judges at our local competition. Their topics included a field archeology cart to assist archaeologists with tool storage and other essentials, modifications to an armored car that could be used in desert digs in areas prone to land mines, and a robot that could carefully pick up, clean, and store artifacts autonomously.

In the Robot Game, teams had 2.5 minutes to complete as many archeology themed missions as possible on the game field. Each mission is worth a set number of points. Teams learned how to code, created attachments, and designed a robot built from a LEGO SPIKE Prime kit. Our “**Dirt Diggers**” team attained the overall third highest Robot Game score at our competition with 230 points.



Our FLL program is for 4th-6th graders and was coached this year by **Miss Norby** and **Mrs. Hennen** with mentor help from PCS parents Andy Bronson, Anna Sandry, and Myndi Frey.

## Why Science Fair Matters

Participating in the Science Fair offers students a powerful and rewarding learning experience. Beyond the excitement and fun of exploring their own scientific interests, students gain confidence as they develop crucial presentation, communication, and problem solving skills. The process encourages active learning and deeper scientific literacy, allowing students to channel their natural curiosity into meaningful research. Science fairs also create opportunities for students to connect with peers who share similar passions, earn significant prizes, and even qualify for scholarships. In addition, the experience strengthens college applications and builds essential skills that prepare students for success in communicating and presenting to others. We are so proud of our students and their incredible projects.

## This years Science Fair Results:

### 10th Grade

- 1st – Gavin Dagenais
- 2nd – Caleb Striker
- 3rd – Brenna De Vries

### Honorable Mentions:

- Greta Almquist
- Henry Baasch
- George Spaeth
- Christian Scheid



### 8th grade

- 1st – Oliver Swenson
- 2nd – Malia Bjerke
- 3rd – Connor Bata

### Honorable Mentions:

- Tenley Bergh
- Hadley Hahne
- Caleb Carlson
- Louijay Dort
- Hannah Nielson



## Making the Old Testament Come Alive

One of the most encouraging parts of this unit was watching **Mrs. Kramer bring the Old Testament to life**. We often assume the Old Testament is too difficult, outdated, or “boring” for children, but this week showed just how **alive, active, and applicable** God’s Word truly is. Through creative teaching, visual anchors, and meaningful conversations, Mrs. Kramer helped students experience these ancient stories as real, relevant lessons for today. It is a joy to see first graders understand that Scripture speaks to them personally and see their reflections in the halls.

### Understanding the Cycle in Judges

Students learned about the “Cycle of God’s People in Judges,” a repeated pattern throughout the book:

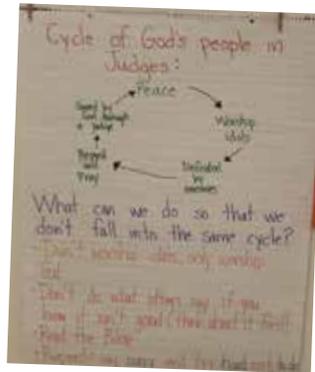
- Peace
- Worshipping idols
- Defeat by enemies
- Repentance and prayer
- Deliverance through a judge
- Return to peace

This overview helped students see how easily people can drift from God—and how faithfully God welcomes His people back when they turn to Him.

### Choosing a Better Path

To apply this lesson, the class discussed practical ways to remain close to God:

- Worship God alone
- Think carefully instead of following others blindly
- Read the Bible regularly
- Repent genuinely and work to grow

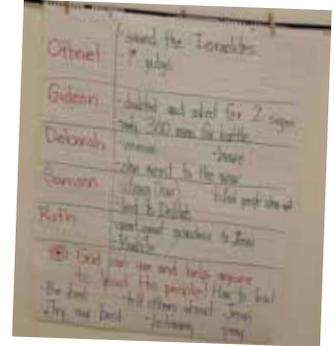


It was inspiring to hear first graders identify such thoughtful, concrete ways to live out their faith.

### Meeting the Leaders God Chose

Students also studied several leaders from Judges—ordinary individuals whom God called for extraordinary purposes:

- **Othniel** – The first judge of Israel
- **Gideon** – A hesitant leader who asked for signs yet bravely trusted God
- **Deborah** – A wise and courageous woman who helped lead Israel to victory
- **Samson** – A man of great strength and great struggle, showing that God uses imperfect people
- **Ruth** – A faithful woman whose obedience played a key role in God’s plan



These stories highlighted how God equips all kinds of people—and how He can use anyone willing to follow Him.

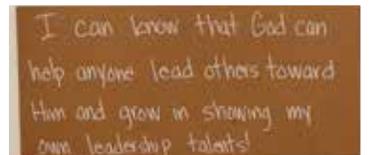
### Growing Our Own Leadership Gifts

The class closed the unit by reflecting on how they can become leaders who reflect Christ. Students suggested:

- Being kind
- Trying their best
- Listening well
- Telling others about Jesus
- Praying faithfully

We are grateful for teachers like **Mrs.**

**Kramer** who make God’s Word accessible, exciting, and deeply meaningful for our students.



## Junior High Ski Trip



## Pastor Ryan

The 6th graders were visited by Simeon Bar-Jonah in Bible class! He came to tell them about what happened at Pentecost and how he is coming to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah!

## Board Game Club – Join the Fun

Looking for a place to test your strategy skills, challenge your friends, and try something new?

Our Board Game Club meets every Tuesday after school until 4:30 PM and is open to students in grades 7–12.

From strategy games to classic board games to card games — you name it, they probably have it. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or just learning the ropes, there's something for everyone.

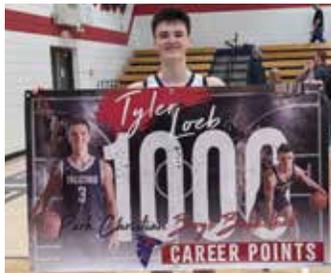
The club has been led by **Mr. Kemp** for the past three years, creating a welcoming and fun environment where students can connect, compete, and build critical thinking skills.

Come join us this Tuesday and see what the excitement is all about!



## Tyler Loeb Reaches 1,000 Career Points

Park Christian School is celebrating a milestone as Senior **Tyler Loeb** scored his 1,000th career point, joining an accomplished group of athletes.



Tyler's work ethic, calm leadership, and unselfish play have made him a cornerstone of the team. **Head coach Brendan Giese** shared that Tyler continues to refine his game each year and is always willing to do whatever it takes for the team to succeed, making this personal achievement especially meaningful.

His teammate **Gavin Giese** added, "He makes the game fun, and we can relate to each other because our dads are both coaches."

Built through countless hours in the gym and a desire to honor God with his talents, Tyler's milestone reflects perseverance, teamwork, and the strong community of Park Christian athletics. We congratulate Tyler on this incredible accomplishment.

## Gavin Giese Reaches 1,000-Point Milestone

Park Christian School is celebrating as **Gavin Giese** reaches the 1,000-point milestone in his basketball career. This accomplishment reflects not only his talent, but the perseverance and character he has developed over years of hard work.



**Coach Waylon Loeb** shared high praise for Gavin's journey, noting, "Gavin brings poise, determination, and joy every time he steps on the court. This milestone is the result of years of dedication I've been fortunate to coach and support since junior high. His commitment elevates not only his game but the entire team."

Gavin's achievement is a testament to consistent effort, humility, and the encouragement of teammates, coaches, and the PCS community. We congratulate him on this outstanding accomplishment and look forward to seeing how God continues to use his gifts both on and off the court.

## MATHCOUNTS

On February 4th, Park Christian School participated in the MATHCOUNTS competition held at MSUM. The mission of MATHCOUNTS is to inspire excellence, confidence and curiosity in U.S. middle school students through fun and challenging math problems. Several times a week during the past two months, PCS students in the 7th and 8th grades met during lunch and before school to practice problem solving in all areas of mathematics. The four mathletes who qualified for the team were **Avery Dahl, Louijay Dort, Braden Lysne, and Griffin Reich. Noah Bronson, Mason Holte, Amayah Leedahl, and Will Rasmussen** qualified as individuals. Park's team placed sixth out of ten schools. Louijay Dort placed 5th out of 91 individuals, and he placed 4th in the Countdown Round!

Coaches **Kathy Hanson** and **Amanda Biebighauser** would like to thank the students for all their hard work in preparing for this challenging event!



## Student-Led Revival: A Growing Hunger for Jesus on Campus

This year, Park has seen a growth in students seeking **Jesus** on their own. Whether it's through prayer, the Scriptures, books, sermons, kids are hungry to get closer to Jesus. The 8th graders gather together every Tuesday to pray during lunch, there's a Tuesday morning student led Bible study, and another for boys that meets during lunch. All of these things are **student driven**. Pastor **Ryan Kockelman** gets to connect with students in their classroom, the commons, the gym, just about everywhere! Students also know he can be found in his office during the day if they need someone to talk or pray with.

*"I'm excited for more opportunities in our school for students to experience personal, ongoing discipleship and deeper spiritual growth."* — Pastor Ryan



## 7th Graders Discover God's Design Through DNA

Mrs. Bates and our 7th grade Life Science students have been exploring DNA—the incredible molecule God uses to “**knit us together**” in the womb. Alongside their study of



genetics, students reflected on **Psalm 139:14**: I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

To bring this learning to life, students performed a hands on DNA extraction lab. By collecting cheek cells, breaking open the cell membranes with soap, and



adding rubbing alcohol, they were able to see real strands of DNA form before their eyes. They even lifted and examined the tiny, yarn like clumps—evidence of

many DNA fragments bundled together.

Students were amazed to learn that every cell in their body contains a complete set of DNA, and that the DNA from just one cell would stretch about six feet long if uncoiled!

This activity helped students connect scientific discovery with the **truth of God's intentional, intricate design**—reminding them that faith and science beautifully point to the same Creator.

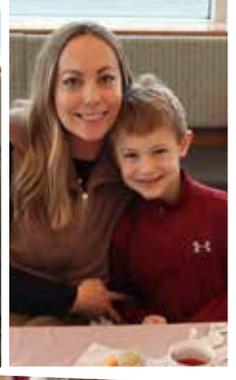


## Sweet Traditions & Christ-Centered Joy

Valentine's Day is a special time at Park. While we might think cards and candy, we cherish this time as a reminder of God's love and the blessing of our school family; and our share of candy too.

Students look forward to favorite traditions like **Singing Telegrams**, Valentine's exchanges, and our always-popular **Valentine Tea**. Laughter fills the halls as surprises are delivered, friendships are celebrated, and sweet treats are shared. Upper Elementary enjoys fellowship at **Skate City**, building memories together outside the classroom.

Kindergarten moms are treated to our treasured Mother's Tea—a special time to honor the wonderful moms and their role in their child's life. From singing and skating to laughter and tea, we are **grateful for a community that reflects Christ's love** in every celebration.



## Bigs Serving Littles: The Joy of Educational Training

One of the many blessings of being a K–12 school is watching our “Bigs” and “Littles” grow together. One special way this happens at PCS is through Educational Training (ET). Older students serve in classrooms throughout the day—and for many, it's the highlight of their schedule.

**Jack Rasmussen** enjoys helping in P.E., sharing that it's fun to be with the younger students.

**Mr. Kaiser** appreciates the impact ETs make in the gym. “They build relationships with students and encourage them to try things. It is also another set of hands in a busy gym.”

In the library, **Mrs. Danuser** is thankful for the extra help. “This is my first year having an ET in the library, and it's been wonderful,” she said. She especially loves seeing it come full circle, as **Julia Fisher**—once a student checking out books—is now serving there as an ET.

Out at recess, **Micah Hall** brings energy and leadership as he rotates between gaga ball and the basketball court, helping keep order when “chaos is always just around the corner!”

Educational Training is a beautiful example of servant leadership in action, as our Bigs learn to lead by serving and bless our Littles each day—reminding us all that true leadership begins with a willing heart.



# Shining the Truth

## Shining the Truth: First Grade with Miss Damm

**Miss Damm** sees teaching as far more than a job—it is a high calling from God. As a first-grade teacher, her deep hope for her students is rooted in the words of 3 John 1:4:

*“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.”*

If Miss Damm could ensure her students walk away remembering just one thing, it would be this: **learn the Truth and share it with others.** Everything she does in the classroom flows from that purpose. Her desire is not only to teach reading, writing, and math, but to point her students to a life grounded in Christ.

The storyline in her classroom is the “Firefly Project.” Each day, students write down a truth they have learned or a blessing they have noticed on a firefly. These fireflies are displayed throughout the year, slowly filling the room with reminders of growth, gratitude, and God’s faithfulness. It is a joy to look back and see how much the students have learned—not just academically, but spiritually as well.

Miss Damm shares that several of her students have told her they have given their lives to Christ. “That is fantastic,” she tells them. **“Now your job is to be bold for Him** and share that life in Christ with others.” Moments like these are reminders of why she believes **teaching is such a high calling.**

She often explains to her students that fireflies are not meant to be trapped in a jar. They are meant to be free—shining brightly in the dark. In the same way, we are not meant to keep our faith hidden. We are called to shine for Him wherever we go. Fireflies also thrive in community, just as we do. We are stronger, brighter, and more joyful when we live out our faith together.

Through faithful teaching and a classroom centered on Christ, **Miss Damm is helping her students walk in the Truth**—and lighting the way for others to do the same.



# PREVIEW DAY

**March 26**  
**8:00-11:30 am**

*What are  
you waiting for?*  
**Invite a friend!**

