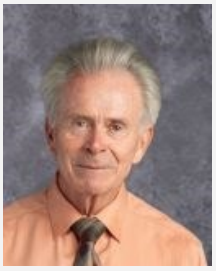
August 2023

The Grapevine

I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.
John 15:5

The WHY Behind Bradshaw Christian School



By Carl Eastvold, Head of School

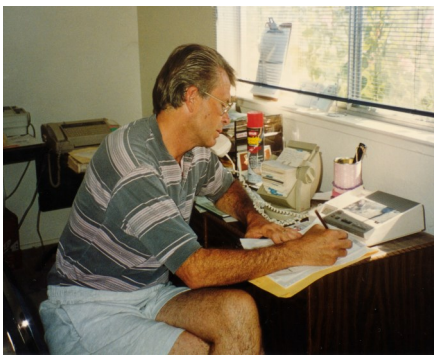
As I look back to my article in the first Grapevine publication, I wrote then, 30 years ago, what I still hold dear today. Paraphrasing and enhancing what was in my heart then, it is the ***philosophy and conviction*** that underscored the foundation for our beginnings**.** This philosophy gave us the reason for pressing on, even today, with such a monumental endeavor here at BCS; the Biblical belief that *children are meant to be viewed as rich and complete rather than empty and needy*. They are not just empty banks waiting for an educational system to fill them up. Such a superficial viewpoint obscures the real value of the child, hiding his wealth, not only from himself but also from others. Instead, in God's economy, our children have a bank that is **full**, filled with the foreknowledge of God's great love and unique desire for them, being worked out in the day-to-day by way of the Holy Spirit. This linkage is best expressed in Colossians 1:27b "Christ in you, the hope of glory." We therefore as educators and parents have the great responsibility and opportunity of knowing we are taking part in ***drawing out, or "educing",*** the riches of God's great plan for each child.

> ***"Children are meant to be viewed as rich and complete rather than empty and needy."***

We can contrast this view with today's public education, where the focus on educational research, in seminars, and leadership, is not on our children's riches and character but on their **needs**. Research is always trying to integrate more disciplines into a better understanding of these needs. To leave it just there is to leave our experts to their ivory towers, trying to fill up the leaking cisterns in our needy children, while failing to see they have missed the most important element of all.....our children are not just needy and empty but are enriched and full with God's love and unique plan for their lives. Without this being the foundation, education becomes impersonal and organizational; failing to see the importance that *courage, love, and character* have in our educational endeavors. Christian education teaches us that our clamoring needs and desires should be tethered to God's great and enriching love. This alone reorders our focus in such a way that instead of coddling our children as needy, we are encouraging them, over time, to be bold in living and learning, and to find their voice as unique individuals.

This philosophy has guided and informed the way we have approached educating and nurturing our BCS students over the last 30 years. I believe that it will continue to be the touchstone of our purpose well into the future.

School Founder Highlight: Carl Eastvold


Taking care of school business in 1994.

- Came from a family whose roots were in Christian education, land development, and politics
- Became Christ-centered during the "Jesus Revolution" in the early '70s
- Worked with many youth groups and evangelistic tours
- Changed career focus from Law to Education, graduated from California Lutheran College then received a Master's degree in History from the University of California Santa Barbara
- Married Maureen (Johnson) (BCS Webmaster) in 1974 and has 3 children (Kristen (Hage), currently BCS Elementary principal) and 9 grandchildren (4 are currently enrolled at BCS)
- Taught 8th grade in Thousand Oaks, California right after marriage, then accepted a principal position at Gloria Dei Lutheran in Sacramento in 1979
- Purchased property on Bradshaw Road in 1992 with the Laidet family and a handshake at a kitchen table in the house which is now the Preschool Office; began building and leading Bradshaw Christian School to open its doors on July 17, 1993

Did You Know...How the School Was Named?

As you know, the founders decided to keep it simple and name the school after the location where it was built on Bradshaw Road. Hence, the name became "Bradshaw Christian School". What you may not know is that while searching for suitable property to build our school, the location where Sheldon High School stands was available for purchase. At that time, the road was not named Kingsbridge Dr. as it is today. It had several mini ranches along a dirt and gravel country road with a somewhat "tongue in cheek" country name, "Helluva Road". Had we built the school there…...we leave the rest to your imagination. But the school secretaries that answered the phones would sure have had some fun!

Original school sign from 1993.

Alumni Feature: Looking Forward Looking Back

Class of 2009 Leah (Mowery) Sarmiento

I came to BCS in first grade and graduated in 2009 in the third graduating class at BCS. Having attended BCS for 12 years, I came to love and appreciate the deep love and care that my teachers and coaches had for me. A highlight was playing volleyball throughout high school and building lifelong friendships. Many of my friends today are those I graduated with, and I am so grateful! I attended Westmont College, a small Christian college in Santa Barbara. My desire was to find a college that embodied the same qualities I loved about Bradshaw, which were a close community, a Christian learning environment, and teachers who cared about my academic and spiritual growth. Shortly after graduation, I got married and an opportunity to work at BCS opened. We moved back to Sacramento, and I began working at the preschool and eventually became the Preschool Director for 7 years. My husband, Henry, also came to work at Bradshaw. Now I am working in the BCS Business Office, and my husband is the Middle School Vice Principal. We have three little boys, two of whom go to school at Bradshaw, and our baby will be joining when he is old enough. I am so grateful for Bradshaw, and the profound impact it made on me as a student, and now on my family as well.

We're still growing! A look to the future.

The Pride Way completion and Bradshaw Road traffic light project is still in process. We are looking forward to the improvement of our traffic flow for all campuses once it is finally finished. As with many construction undertakings, county requirements, and responses take longer than you hope would be the case. The anticipated ground breaking for this project is in September. While construction takes place, be prepared for changes we will need to make for traffic and parking at the elementary and preschool campuses.

REMINDER! Please refer to your campus traffic flow plan for drop off and pick up of your student(s) and bring your patience as we all adjust to the new year.