April 2024

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

A Great, Big God

By Kristen Hage
Elementary Principal

I'll take this opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself and how I came to serve at Bradshaw Christian School. I was born and raised right here in Sacramento, attending Christian schools my whole life. After completing my undergraduate degree at Westmont College, I earned my Masters in Educational School Counseling, which included a PPS (Pupil Personnel Services) credential, from Azusa Pacific University. Shortly thereafter, I served as an elementary classroom teacher at BCS, becoming its principal just over 13 years ago. But that's not my whole "Bradshaw Story." I have had the privilege of growing up alongside this ministry as my family are some of the founders of BCS. I lived on the campus as the school opened its doors in 1993 when I was just 12 years old! My two brothers and I have climbed some of these Bradshaw trees and looked for insects and chased cows in what once were acres of fields and farmland.

Early on, shortly after purchasing the property, I remember my dad, Carl Eastvold, calling us together for a family meeting one night. He explained that money was going to be tight for a season because God called us to build a school, which cleared out our bank account and maxed out our credit cards. It really hit home how tight we were, when my brothers and I became some of Bradshaw's first employees (unpaid of course 😊). Because we could not afford janitorial services at the time, we were put to work as school "janitors"—cleaning bathrooms and vacuuming classrooms. As kids, not only were we asked to clean our bedrooms, but also we were told to "go clean the school" in the evenings and on weekends. On Saturday's I remember asking my dad…"Dad, can we clean the school tomorrow?" Of course, the response always was, "Why put off till' tomorrow, what you can do today?"

> ***"…be still, trust, and know that HE is God"***

Year after year, as I grew up alongside BCS, my testimony was being chiseled out. I had many fears and struggled with great anxiety in my youth. As I reflect back, I see that God was using those places of weakness to reveal to me my desperation and need for Him. Intuitively, as a small child, I sensed that life was so much bigger than me and that I could not control my world, as much as I tried to. Thankfully, I was introduced to a great, BIG God who reminded me to be still, trust, and know that HE is God. My faith really grew when after college, I decided to attend a Bible discipleship school, called Caperwray Hall in England. Not only did I meet Jesus in a NEW and living way at Capernwray, but I also met my future husband, Butch. In lectures at this school, and

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Staff Highlight: Thalia Murray, Middle School History Teacher

- Saved by grace when I was 5 years old and I continued to grow in my faith at Steward Memorial Episcopal Church through my childhood, teen years and a young adult.
- At 7 years of age, my teaching career began when Santa brought my Suzy Smart doll with desk and easel. Suzy Smart retired from my classroom after only a few years when my neighborhood friends filled my parent's garage as I taught them arithmetic, writing and reading during the summers.
- I exchanged my neighborhood students for my very own children: 4 sons, 2 daughters including a set of twins (a girl and boy). Life was grand with the love of my life, Joseph Murray and six beautiful children to raise.
- By His grace, God called me to teach His Word when I was a young woman in my twenties. Schooling came next: Bible college, seminary, doctoral studies. Years of ministering in convalescent homes, the County Jail, television, radio and planting a church was tremendously fulfilling. But, when all was said and done it was the classroom that won my heart of hearts.
- For 25 years and counting, I have been listening to the Spirit of Christ guide me in loving, caring and teaching His precious children. I have spent 22 of those years here at Bradshaw Christian School. Maybe my numbers are a tad bit off because I have been teaching school since I was 7 years old.

Did You Know...the Spring Musical is Finding Nemo?

The BCS Spring Musical is Finding Nemo! The performance includes students from elementary through high school. Bring your family, friends and neighbors and support our students in the Arts!

Dates: Thursday May 2 @ 7:00 pm
Friday May 3 @ 7:00 pm
Saturday May 4 @ 2:00 & 7:00 pm
Sunday May 5 @ 2:00 pm

Cost of Tickets: BCS Students and Teachers are $8, while General Admission is $16, and VIPs (limited seating) are $20. Look for the Finding Nemo resource tab on your Family Portal to purchase tickets today!

Bradshaw Family Reflections: The Bloomstine Family

One of the magnificent aspects of the Christian faith is the simple recognition that we are all, as individuals in a broader community, at different places in our walk with Jesus Christ. Since our oldest son started Kindergarten at Bradshaw Christian School in 2009, the Bloomstine family has been blessed by the Bradshaw community to continue to develop our faith.

You may not know this, but according to a series of Gallup polls, religious participation by Americans is in strong decline. In 1992, a total of 70% of respondents indicated they are a member of a church or synagogue with 40% indicating they attended a church service over the last seven days. This figure plummeted in 2022 with only 46% saying they belong to a church or synagogue and 30% attending church over the last seven days. Religious engagement, and in turn moral discernment, is ubiquitously declining in our society.

This is the exact reason why we have found such value at Bradshaw Christian School over our last 15 years. Bradshaw is quite literally where our children's value systems can be developed, examined and put into practice. It is certainly not a substitute for church services or memberships, but it is a place where earthly values can be left at the entrances to the campus. This is unique in today's society and it is a place we as a family have committed our time, talent and treasure.

From working on the inaugural Parent Teacher Fellowship fundraiser to teaching at the High School, Michelle

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Alumni Feature: Looking Forward Looking Back

Class of 2017
Cassidy (Maw) & Grayson Romig

Any time I talk about Bradshaw, I tell people that I grew up there. My brother, Kyle, was a year older than me, and I would sneak into his kindergarten parties any chance I could, waiting for the day I would finally be a BCS student. I was so blessed to have my K-12 academic and athletic career at Bradshaw because it truly shaped me into who I am and the passions I have today. I was honored to be a part of the first-ever Section Champion Varsity Volleyball team under Melissa Bowers in 2016 and went on to play collegiate volleyball at Jessup University in Rocklin, where I studied Math and Data Science, eventually meeting my husband Grayson.

Post-Bradshaw life has been nothing short of amazing, all by the glory of God. As a believer, all I've ever wanted was to find a career that combines my brain with my heart, allowing me to glorify God with the gifts He has blessed me with. Continuing my schooling at a Christian university offered me just that. I graduated Jessup in a parking lot in 2020 with a data analyst job at 3Strands Global Foundation, a local non-profit whose goal is to create a world free from human trafficking. In addition, I have had the opportunity to coach girls volleyball for the past 7 years at both the club and high school level, recently being named the Varsity Volleyball Head Coach at Del Oro High School as well as the 14s National Head Coach at Synergy Force Volleyball Club. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the foundation Bradshaw laid for me. I was empowered by my teachers and coaches every single day, which has allowed me to empower others in my work today. My mom, Mrs. Maw, is a kindergarten teacher at Bradshaw, and I still get to hear all of the amazing work going on every day. I will always be proud of this school and the way it shapes young people to go out and serve the Lord!

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

After 30 years of existence, BCS has surely grown from the 3 students we started with till now, with a current enrollment of 1419. The line from the movie, Field of Dreams, said "If you build it, they will come." We stepped out in faith in those early years to do just that; build before we had enough students to fill the rooms. Now, as we continue to walk by faith, we also need to mind our budget with diligence and wisdom in order to be good stewards with our resources. Over the years, we have continued to grow our enrollment as well as our campuses. In the last 5 years Elementary enrollment has grown from the low 400s to nearly 600; middle school from under 200 to nearly 300; and high school from 200 to over 300. We certainly feel blessed to be growing at a time when we look at other private Christian schools in our area shrinking and even closing. Our campus rooms are full and we anticipate a robust enrollment for the upcoming 2024-25 school year. With space becoming scarce and our road and signal light project completing this year, we are looking to build again!

REMINDER! **Reserve your seat for this year's spring musical, "Finding Nemo." Our students have a spectacular show prepared for you. Go to the Finding Nemo resource tab on your family portal to purchase your tickets today!**

Bloomstine Family (continued from page 2)

Bloomstine has worked with many aspects of the school. Her favorite, without question, is teaching Government and Economics to BCHS seniors. After a six-month battle with classic Hodgkins Lymphoma, she's very anxious to return to campus this month.

Todd Bloomstine served on the school board for seven years and administered the school's youth football program from 2014 to 2021. Never did he think that God would use football to bring families closer to Jesus. Watching two competing teams pray together after a game and give thanks to God for the competition inspired not only the participants, but all those watching in the stands.

The Bloomstine's youngest son, Gavin, is finishing his Sophomore year at the high school. He's played a variety of sports for Bradshaw including football, wrestling and baseball. All of which have created a strong and resilient young man.

The oldest son, Aidan, is completing his third year at the University of Southern California where he's excelled in his academic studies, been selected to the student government and is taking every opportunity afforded him in Los Angeles.

The Bloomstine family is so incredibly thankful for the Bradshaw Christian community. It has been more than a place for our children to receive their education. It's been a shining beacon of light for Christ. A real place for Christian values to be explained, expressed and practiced.

Christ stated in John 9:5 that "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." With all the light emanating from Bradshaw Christian, it's clear Christ is at work there.

A Great, Big God (continued from page 1)

The Hage Family

Arynn, Butch, Brooklyn, Kristen, Vaughn, and Kamryn

through a fellowship of like-minded believers, I was more awakened to the COMPLETED work of Christ. I didn't have to continue to try to "hustle" for my worthiness or "work harder" to be a better Christian. Because Jesus died on the cross, I was forgiven…I truly could live out "from" victory, instead of "for" victory. What a relaxing revelation this was in my early 20's!

Our greatest burden at Bradshaw is to be diligent and faithful to put God first above all else. When we opened our doors in 1993, our mission and vision was to use the platform of education as a way to express the light of Christ to our community, and to point them to Him as their greatest resource; their Savior! More than ever, as the issues of our culture and world are swirling around us and are so loud, the call to live as set apart and "different" is more important than ever. As scripture tells us in John 13:35, "They will know we are Christians by the love we have for one another." My prayer is that as one Bradshaw body we will be attentive to hear his voice, be courageous to obey and grow in living out God's love one to another. Here's to giving God the glory in our next 30 years!