March 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

Bradshaw Roots & Fruits

By Maureen Eastvold

I woke up that first morning at the Bradshaw ranch, to the relentless crowing of roosters that resided in nearby ranches. Yes, we weren't in "Kansas" anymore, to quote Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*. Moving from the roughness of South Sac to the country-like setting of the Vineyard area, reality was beginning to set in. In 1991, our family of five had moved in to the ranch house that now serves as the Preschool offices. The kids, after two years of being homeschooled, were enrolled in elementary and middle schools in the area while we set our efforts to the vision that we and our co-founders had planned. The journey to start a Christian school had begun, but more to the point, it was unfolding and coming to fruition. Our steps of faith that led us to purchase the cattle ranch on Bradshaw road, now seemed small in comparison to the many steps that lay before us to see this ministry dream be realized. Encouraged by the Spirit in the scripture Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose," we were eager to depend upon God's faithfulness for all those future steps that we had been called to.

> ***"Christ in You, the Hope of Glory"***

The **ROOTS** that lead to the founding of the school were based on our own life's journey with the Lord. In *my* journey, I had grown up with *knowledge* of the Christian faith, but came to a personal relationship with the Lord during the "Jesus Movement" during the early '70s. Being confronted by the Holy Spirit, this LOVE relationship drew me out of my head and into my heart, so that I could truly depend on him for my life and fellowship intimately with God. Some of the **FRUIT** born of this are the founding documents and symbols that inform direction in all that we do and display who we are in Christ. All these documents and symbols, from the Statement of Faith all the way down to the Mascot (The Pride) and colors (purple, gold) that we chose some 30 years ago, speak to the faith that is central to educating those who come to Bradshaw and point to God's ultimate desire for a personal relationship with himself.

"Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him." Colossians 2:7

Establishing a school, we knew we were being called to educate those that came to BCS. But we also knew that

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Staff Highlight: Michele Booty

I began working at Bradshaw Christian in 2003 helping in a small after school program for public school students. After that program, I've had many different titles throughout the years, like being a classroom aide, after school teacher, daycare director and so much more! I was blessed to have the opportunity to bring my children here and have them grow up in a loving Christian environment throughout the years. Now, I have a daughter who teaches here and a niece who is attending Bradshaw. Some of my favorite things to come out of being at Bradshaw for so many years, is building lasting relationships with so many of my peers and seeing the students grow in their faith. I believe I have been called by God to share His love with all of the students that come through these doors. That is why it has been such a blessing to have been here for ***21 years*** and counting!

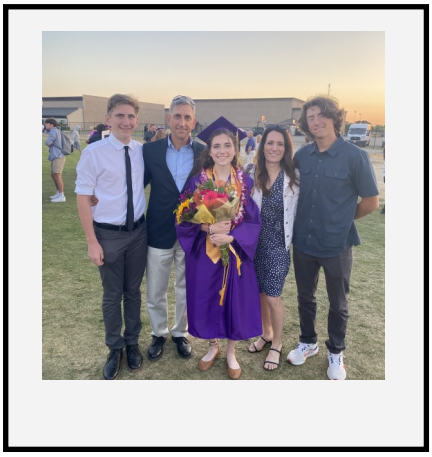
Did You Know...the BCS school colors are Purple and Gold?

There is meaning to the colors chosen some 30 years ago to express the identity of who we are as a community.

Purple stands for ROYALTY:
We are a "royal priesthood, a holy nation" (1 Peter 2:9)

Gold stands for RARITY:
Our faith is "more precious than gold" (1 Pet 1:7)
And WEALTH: God wants to make known the "riches of the glory of this mystery: Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

Bradshaw Family Reflections: The Crosno Family



When we reflect back on all these years with BCS, the word that comes to mind is gratefulness. Our story began in early 2009. After searching online for "private Christian schools in Elk Grove," we trusted the Lord's guidance and registered our 3-year-old daughter, Ella, for the BCS preschool that fall, and her two brothers, Alex and Caleb, followed shortly after. Little did we know the huge impact joining the BCS community would have on each member of our family. Since I do not work outside the home, I felt God calling me to a new "job." I was to bless the teachers as much as possible, so I volunteered often.

Over the kids' elementary years, I had the privilege of being a room mom, attending chapel, driving for field trips, and helping however I could. Through the school's welcoming nature, God blessed me greatly by allowing me into the classrooms to experience my children's education and develop beautiful friendships with their teachers, admin, and other fellow moms. We are continually humbled that our children can attend a school where Jesus is so present! In 2015, I coordinated my first book fair, and the following year I took over as the volunteer Elementary Librarian and continue to do both. In 2021, the HS Cross Country coaching job fell to Nate, and he's been blessed to coach both MS and HS Cross Country and Track and Field since. He enjoys giving back to the school by teaching the kids about the sport he loves. Ella graduated in 2023, and if you ask, she'll share about the eternal impact the BCS teachers have had on her education and walk with Christ. It's fun for our family to see the artistic mark she's been able to leave in the murals she's painted around campus. Alex, whose giant love is baseball, is currently a junior. He finds much joy playing for his school and says he walks the BCS halls thankful for the teachers, coaches, and the privilege to attend–it's something he does not take for granted. Our youngest, Caleb, is in 8th grade, and he loves to dress up and show his school spirit any chance he gets—we truly thank the BCS family for celebrating his outgoing personality. He has made many close connections with teachers who will always hold special places in his heart. We are so thankful to be a part of this beautiful community!

Bradshaw Roots & Fruits (continued from page 1)

we were meant to bring the ***Truth*** into the lives that walk through our doors; the ones that sit at the desks, play in the gym, teach in the classrooms, coach on the fields. A common phrase we have used over the years as a reason to exhort one another is; "we just *happen* to be a school". When students or staff face challenges in personal spiritual growth, that is the time when roots are digging deeper. What is the fruit? Faith that is mightier, convictions that are deeper, freedom that is bolder, achievements that are worthier, relationships that are stronger and LIFE that is more meaningful.

I consider all the parts that I have played at BCS over the last 30+ years, from the ***ROOTS*** that bore ***FRUIT***; building designer, preschool teacher, worship leader, Readers Club teacher, 2nd grade teacher, van driver, board member, Health & Safety administrator, Music Mema and webmaster; as just being available to take the "next steps" in his unfolding plan. The only way to bear good fruit in our lives is to "remain in Him", letting the roots get deeper. "For apart from Him, we can do nothing." John 15:5

From the Sacramento Union newspaper dated November 8, 1992. Author Sylvia Thornton, Family section.

Read the 1992 newspaper article about the Eastvold's passion for starting this school on our website.

Couple to teach more children than their own

By SYLVIA THORNTON
UNION STAFF WRITER

Maureen and Carl Eastvold are embarking upon an adventure. The proud Christian parents of Ben, 13, Daniel, 10, and Kristen 11, are working toward a very special undertaking.

"We're going to be starting our own private Christian school. It will be called Bradshaw Christian School," Mrs. Eastvold said. "It's already been identified as a nonprofit organization. We've been in the process for the last 2½ years, and it's all starting to come to fruition."

This is a very busy time for the family, in terms of getting used to a new area and dealing with builders, permits required during the building process.

"We decided that I should stay home and take care of the family," said Mrs. Eastvold. "I felt very fortunate that we were able to do that. We did make some sacrifices and adjustments. It really has worked out for us."

"I consider myself a domestic engineer; there's plenty to do at home," she laughed.

A full-time mom and a registered nurse by profession, Mrs. Eastvold elected, after the birth of Daniel, to remain home for the proper rearing of the children.

The eldest child, Ben, is studying English in school and would like to be a veternarian when he grows up. He also enjoys throwing the football around

Eastvolds

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The family also includes two cats, one dog and a guinea pig.

Mrs. Eastvold has her hands full. She finds little free time these days to meander in personal pleasures or hobbies, but she enjoys working out at a local health club and spending time with friends. As a family, the Eastvolds

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The children have also enjoyed home schooling, with mother at the teacher's helm. But now all three are in more traditional schools. Ben attends Capital Christian, and Daniel and Kristen are at Butler Elementary.

Head of the household Carl went to college in Thousand Oaks, where the couple married. They moved to Sacramento in 1979.

"I've been in Christain education for the last 15 years. I'm working in founding this school right now," he said. "We are getting real close to it now."

The family unit is very special to Eastvold. For him is it means a lot of commitment and learning how to take a good look inside.

"Families don't just happen, they require a lot of energy and commitment. If you live in a state of hopefulness or denial, and you don't face how things are — I think you're not going to get very far," he said.

It also requires a special sensitivity to the needs of younger members of the family.

Says Mrs. Eastvold: "When you are dealing with the young and tender hearts of children, you've got to be able to reach where they are at."

Eastvold says one should have high expectations of family members and that therein lies the secret.

"As a father or a husband, I would want to send out a message to the children that they are loved and accepted. And that we are meant to grow," he said.

Kristen, Ben, Maureen, Carl, and Daniel Eastvold

Alumni Feature: Looking Forward Looking Back

Class of 2017
Josh Harris

My time at Bradshaw began in 2004 when my mom started working at the BCS preschool and enrolled my sister and me at the school. I started in kindergarten and became what is known as a BCS lifer, attending Bradshaw for every grade and graduating in 2017. People often talk about their home away from home, and that is what Bradshaw became for me. The impact the teachers and staff have had on my life is irreplaceable. Learning about God in school and the love that Jesus has for all of us was such a blessing and a privilege. When I look back, I can't believe how lucky I was to grow up in such a great environment. It really helped lay the foundations for me in my life. The friendships that I have made have lasted from Mrs. Lane's kindergarten class all the way to the stage at graduation and now into my adult life. I think the impact of the school on my life was why I wanted to give back and pursue teaching as a career.

I started working in the daycare at elementary school a year after graduation in 2018. It was an amazing experience and really prepared me for life as a teacher, and working in that capacity was what pushed me toward education as a career. I am forever grateful for the lessons I learned from the daycare leadership: Peggy Hage, Michele Booty, and Henry Sarmiento. The friendships I made at daycare are unforgettable, and I will always credit the daycare program and their amazing staff for helping me become the teacher I am today. It is funny to me that both of my parents are teachers, and I never thought I would be one too. I often said, "I would never be a teacher like my parents." Life is funny that way. I am now a middle school history teacher at BCS.

To me, Bradshaw was and still is my home. I met my best friends and brothers for life here, as well as my amazing and beautiful wife. Getting to learn from amazing people over the years, such as Joe Bowers, who was my coach and teacher, can never be appreciated enough. I am forever grateful to Bradshaw and the wonderful people here.

Michael Kitchens
MS/HS Band & Choir Teacher

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

BCS Music Program by Michael Kitchens

Music is such an integral part of a well-rounded education because it teaches the necessity of teamwork, the strength of leadership, and the lifelong benefits of hard work and commitment. Here at BCS, we are committed to growing our student body in musical education and inspiring future students to make a bold decision and pursue a musical instrument in the Concert Band, express their vocal talents in the Choir, and be a servant of the Lord and an inspiration to their fellow classmates in our Chapel Worship Band. We also offer a music appreciation class for our incoming 6th graders so that they may explore the world of music and be introduced to the many musical opportunities our school provides for their enjoyment and education. If you have any interest in music, please consider making the bold decision to join us at BCS and fill the world with music. I am sure that it will forever be a blessing in your life as it has been for so many.

REMINDER! The Jog-a-thon, our annual all school fundraiser, is set to kick off on March 6th and Jog Day is March 22nd. We will use the Pledgestar program again this year to facilitate sending sponsor requests. The goal is 25 pledge requests per Pledgestar registration account. Your participation makes a huge difference!