

Dear Parents of High School Students,

Your sons and daughters will return this afternoon from our annual Pinnacle retreat. What a joy it was to spend time with our high school students and watch them interact and have fun with one another.

Each year, our focus during this four-day and three-night retreat is the following:

1. To help our new students make friends and ease the transition to a new school
2. To assist our students to become familiar with each other across grade levels
3. To develop the leadership skills of our upper classmen
3. To focus on our relationships with one another and with Jesus Christ

This Pinnacle marks my eighth time to go away with the students and was, by far, the best of all I have attended. Friendships were made, new students found friends, and lives were changed. The team competitions, free-time activities, Biblical instruction and worship all served to bring our students closer to one another and to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Thanks to Coach Len Shelby who started off our retreat by sharing his testimony about how God has worked in his life. There were students who were truly impacted as he shared his journey to be all that God has designed him to be.

Thanks to Pastor Tom Dobbs who taught six sessions with our students. He spoke on numerous topics that impact the lives of our students.

Tuesday was devoted to the the fears that students face in their lives ... the fear of college ... fear of the future ... fear of failure ... and fear of disappointing those we love. He talked about how God has given us the victory over fear, speaking from Psalm 23 and Psalm 27: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

On Wednesday, students were further introduced to the theme of this year's Pinnacle ... **STAND!** The story of Matthew 7 was shared of the man who built his house upon the sand and the one who built his house upon the ROCK who is Jesus.

On Wednesday evening, students were introduced to the constancy of the Love of Christ. Our wonderful student-led praise team sang the song ... "Your love never fails ... it never gives up ... it never runs out on me." Students were called to take a stand, and we saw the Holy Spirit move in the lives of students as some, for the first time, realized that the Love of Christ never fails ... it never gives up ... it never runs out on them. Others realized that taking a stand for Christ is not just a chapel exercise but one that happens daily in their lives. We counseled with students to talk with their parents and with their pastors about any decisions they made for Christ this week.

While I wish I could report the final night of Pinnacle, I had to take a young man home for some medical attention who decided to "kiss a tree" with his nose. I'm glad to report that he is ok. It was interesting to hear his perspective about life as we drove home together. His mom and dad would be proud of how he is maturing in life and in the Lord.

Many thanks to Mrs. Pearce who orchestrates Pinnacle each year. She puts hours into planning and working with staff and students to pull off this special time with students. Her love for the students of Rosehill and her love for Christ are evident throughout the week.

Also thanks to the chaperones (teachers) who took time away from their families to spend time in building relationships with students and in teaching them about the love of Christ.

So your kids will be arriving home soon. Some have experienced a Pinnacle in life. Nurture that as they strive to live a life pleasing to the Lord and in submission to their parents.

STAND!

Marshall Priest
Dean of Academic Affairs