

HardisonInk.com

Creekside Christian School elects homecoming royalty



Creekside Christian School homecoming royalty enjoy their moment in the spotlight. First row from the left Little Prince Will Keith and Little Princess Ryley Copen, Little Queen Emmalynn Johnston and Little King Wyley Byrd, Second row from left to right, Prince Seth Faircloth and Princess Lauren Mathews, King Kaleb Crowell and Queen Emma Grace Keith, and Dutchess Mende Crowell and Duke Everett Byrd.

Photos and Story

By Terry Witt, Senior Staff Writer © Feb. 4, 2018 at 8:38 a.m.

(Three Spirit Day Photos By Creekside Christian School)

OTTER CREEK -- Creekside Christian School in the Town of Otter Creek celebrated its 17th annual homecoming Friday (Feb. 2) with a parade down the town's main streets and the crowning of royalty at halftime of a basketball game, which was held later at the old Bronson High School gym.

HardisonInk.com



Creekside Christian School cheerleaders ride the parade route in the back of a pickup truck.



County Commissioner Rock Meeks and his wife Michelle prepare to ride the parade route with the newest member of the family, Audra. She is four months old.

HardisonInk.com



County Commissioner Lilly Rooks, raised in nearby Cedar Key, took part in the parade.

Seniors Caleb Caldwell and Emma Grace Keith were crowned King and Queen of the high school; Seth Faircloth and Lauren Mathews were crowned Prince and Princess of the middle school; Everett Byrd and Mende Crowell were crowned Duke and Dutchess of the elementary school grades 3-5; Wyle Byrd and Emmalynn Johnson were crowned Little King and Queen of 1st and 2nd grade; and Will Keith 3, and Rylee Copen 5 were crowned Little Prince and Princess of Pre-K and kindergarten.

The school chose its homecoming royalty in an election Friday supervised by Levy County Supervisor of Elections Tammy Jones.

Creekside Christian consists of 96 students and most are not from the Town of Otter Creek. Nearly all come from other parts of the county and a few are from outside of Levy County. Ninety percent of the students receive Step Up for Student Scholarships funded by corporate donations.

Principal Ginny Keith said the school is held to high standards and is accredited by the Florida Council of Private Schools and National Association of Christian Schools.

“We are scrutinized big time. We’re held to very high standards,” Keith said.

The school has internal controls to ensure students are held to a high standard. Students must earn a B average to pass to the next grade. An average of 87-93 is a B-grade and 94-100 is an A.

Former student and now Creekside teacher Shelby Robertson, a graduate of Liberty University, said the B requirement raises the bar for students and forces them to study and obtain good grades.

“You have to push yourself here, so when you get to college it’s easier,” she said. But

HardisonInk.com

she added that college isn't easy.

Cassidy Cook, another Creekside graduate, attended the University of Central Florida and teaches at Chiefland Elementary School, according to Pastor Bill Keith, founder of Creekside.

Students attend Creekside in part for the Christian atmosphere, the accredited curriculum, but some parents don't like public schools or their children haven't fit well in a public education setting, according to Principal Ginny Keith.



Pastor Bill Keith and his father Gene Keith were ministers at Otter Creek Baptist Church at different times. Bill Keith founded Creekside Christian School. His father founded Countryside Christian School in Gainesville.

Pastor Bill Keith said he founded Creekside in 2001 when he noticed as a pastor that some of the students and adults in the community couldn't read well.

The school started as a way of helping community members upgrade their education but quickly grew into a full-fledged Christian school that became the second of three schools operated by Keith and his father Gene, also a former pastor at Otter Creek Baptist Church. The school is affiliated with and is physically connected to Otter Creek Baptist Church.

Today the family operates the 300-student Countryside Christian School in Gainesville founded by Gene Keith, who is Bill Keith's father, as well as Creekside Christian School in Otter Creek and Riverside Christian School in Trenton founded by Bill Keith. Creekside and Riverside met for the homecoming basketball game.

HardisonInk.com

Otters fall to Wranglers 47-11



Brighton Meeks of the Creekside Christian Otters takes a jump shot in the second half.



Creekside's Steven Sample gets heavy pressure from a Riverside Wrangler defender.

HardisonInk.com



SPIRIT DAY

The following pictures of the rappers, seniors, and mathletes are from Spirit Day were provided as a courtesy of Creekside Christian School.

Rapper vs. Rocker Day participants Emma Grace Keith and Everett Byrd.



Creekside Christian School seniors Abby Sauder, Ashley Sauder, Kaleb Crowell, Jacob Jacques, Emma Grace Keith, Jacob Perryman, Alex Rodriquez and Lane Meeks pose for a photo.

HardisonInk.com



Nayah Dalton, Charlie Harris and Mende Crowell were part of Mathletes vs. Athletes Day for homecoming.